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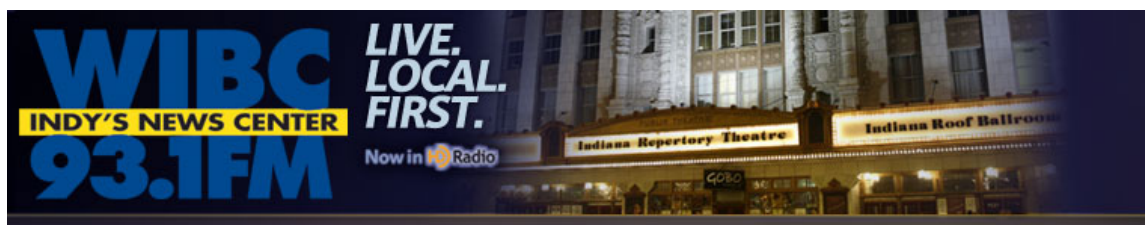
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### **Daniels Thanks DHS Staffers**

Governor calls Indiana flood response "splendid"

By Eric Berman

6/18/2008

With floodwaters finally a thing of the past in most of Indiana, state employees are getting a pat on the back from their boss.

Governor Daniels stopped by a staff meeting of about 250 Department of Homeland Security to thank them for what he says was lifesaving quick action in battling the floods, and pursuing help from the federal government.

Daniels says Indiana's response was speeded along by effective teamwork among different agencies, and by a directive to deliver help first and worry later about dotting all the i's legally.

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## **Governor thanks Homeland Security employees**

Written by Press Release, on 06-18-2008 15:42

INDIANAPOLIS (June 18, 2008) – Governor Mitch Daniels today thanked employees of the Indiana State Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for their response efforts to the state's recent storms. About 200 staff members were in Indianapolis today for a statewide meeting and the governor stopped by to speak to them.

"This has been a splendid performance. It's what our citizens ought to expect from their state government in times of trouble," said Daniels.

DHS coordinated activities in the state Emergency Operations Center, which was manned 24 hours a day for more than a week, and directed efforts with other state agencies and local emergency management officials to respond to immediate needs.

"I have been very positively impressed by the way, with DHS in the lead, all agencies in state government have acted as one," said Daniels.

Here are other miscellaneous developments from today related to severe Indiana storms:

### **Cleaning supplies needed**

As the disaster response efforts in Indiana shift to clean-up and recovery, the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI), which is coordinating volunteer and donation efforts with the American Red Cross, is seeking large donations of cleaning and related supplies during this critical state of recovery.

OFBCI is facilitating this process by providing an online link to AidMatrix Network, a national donations management network sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and private sector businesses. AidMatrix Network assists businesses that would like to make large donations. Priority items right now are: cleaning supplies, bulk cases of bleach, trash bags, masks, mops, buckets, heavy-duty leather gloves, Nitrile rubber gloves and other sanitation items.

Business donors can go to [www.ofbci.in.gov](http://www.ofbci.in.gov) and click on how you can help. Donations also may be made at the drop-off location at Pen Products, 6074 Lakeside Boulevard, near I-465 and 71st Street, in Indianapolis. Donors may call the warehouse at 1-800-736-2550 to schedule donation drop-offs.

In addition, those interested in volunteering may contact the OFBCI at 1-888-335-9490. OFBCI has created a central repository for statewide volunteers and is matching volunteers to opportunities that best meet their skills and resources.

Media contact: Ike Randolph, OFBCI, 317/727-1141

#### Indiana Department of Revenue

The state Department of Revenue (DOR) is providing immediate relief to individuals and businesses in counties where individual and public assistance has been approved. Among efforts, the deadline for estimated income tax payments and filing of such estimated returns for impacted taxpayers has been extended for 30 days and the deadline to submit withholding and sales taxes for impacted small businesses has been extended for 30 days. DOR representatives are available in DOR district offices and at state disaster assistance centers to help victims obtain copies of records, such as state income tax returns and payment plan coupons. A link to the department notice may be found at: <http://www.in.gov/dor/3931.htm>

The governor also has directed the department to extend the Indiana Restricted Commercial Drivers License (CDL) for a second 90-day period through September 30. Many agriculture chemical companies use temporary drivers under this form of CDL for farm delivery and services.

#### One-stop disaster assistance center

An additional one-stop assistance center will open on Thursday in Shelby County. The location is:

- Shelbyville High School  
2003 S. Miller St.  
Shelbyville

The site will be open at 9 a.m. on Thursday, then be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed on Sundays.

This is expected to be the final one-stop location established in the affected counties. The state will now have locations in Bicknell, Columbus, Franklin, Indianapolis, Martinsville, Nashville, Shelbyville, Spencer and Terre Haute to help severe weather victims with questions about housing, unemployment insurance, social services and other services. FEMA and Red Cross officials are also located at most of these sites.

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June 20, 2008

## Westfield puts stop to church's fireworks shop

Pastor says fundraiser got OK from state fire marshal; city says they violated rule

*By Emily Belz  
emily.belz@indystar.com*

Fireworks appear to be flying over the sale of fireworks in Westfield.

Victory Life Center, a Westfield church, invested \$8,000 to set up a fireworks shop on Main Street as a fundraiser. But the city says the store is violating a city ordinance.

"We're in the unenviable position of having to treat a church the same way we treat a business," Mayor Andy Cook said Thursday. "We enforce our codes that are given to us by City Council."

The ordinance stipulates only department stores over 10,000 square feet are allowed to sell fireworks.

Victory Life Center, which has its services at 16162 Carey Road, opened a 700- to 800-square-foot store on Main Street to sell the fireworks. The Rev. Randy Adams said his church obeyed the rules by getting a fireworks retail permit from the state fire marshal's office.

Rachel Meyer, communications manager at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security which oversees state fireworks regulations, said the fire marshal is not responsible to determine whether retailers comply with city ordinances.

"We put that responsibility on the person opening the stand, the retailer," she said.

Adams said the city has not produced any ordinances in writing that specifically address firework codes. Cook explained the word "fireworks" is never used in the zoning ordinances, but the outlined uses for different business locations make the church's store on Main Street in violation.

For bigger stores in general business districts, the code prohibits certain uses, and fireworks are not prohibited. For temporary business districts, the code allows certain uses but fireworks sales are not among them, said Greg Anderson, director of community development in Westfield who serves as the city's zoning ordinance administrator.

"That comes down to my interpretation," Anderson said.

"Tomorrow it might change if it's interpreted differently," said the pastor.

Neither the city nor church is arguing over whether a nonprofit church can open a temporary business to raise money. The church, however, would like to recover its \$8,000 investment.

"If money wasn't critical I would just walk away," said Adams, who works as a bus driver.

The Pentecostal church has a congregation of 50 to 75 and uses space in another church on Carey Road for its services.

Adams closed the Victory Life Fireworks store after receiving cease and desist citations from the city.

Two USA Fireworks locations in Westfield are also in violation of the ordinance, according to city officials. Thursday, city spokeswoman Carrie Cason said the stores remained open.

The city attorney is now handling all three violations, and the church is seeking donations to hire its own attorney. The church could have applied for a variance from the city's zoning board, but it missed the deadline.

"I've tried to do everything aboveboard," Adams said.

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# Fire forces change at VIM Recycling Plant

**[by Nora Gathings \(hsgathings@wsbt.com\)](mailto:hsgathings@wsbt.com)**

This fire at VIM Recycling in Elkhart County burned for several days in June 2007. (WSBT photo)

**By WSBT News1**

Story Created: Jun 13, 2008 at 9:05 PM EDT

Story Updated: Jun 18, 2008 at 5:49 PM EDT

ELKHART COUNTY — Visible changes have been made to a local recycling plant one year after a deadly fire.

## Multimedia

- [Watch The Video](#)

## Related Content

- [State fire marshal wants to close VIM Recycling plant](#)
- [IDEM hears concerns about VIM Recycling permit](#)
- [State fines VIM Recycling for safety violations](#)
- [Elkhart officials hear neighbors' concerns about VIM Recycling](#)
- [Neighbors remain skeptical after VIM Recycling agrees to fines but doesn't admit guilt](#)

The VIM Recycling Plant in Elkhart County was cited by the state for multiple safety violations immediately after the fire.

The state Fire Marshal even filed a lawsuit in February because some changes hadn't been made.

But officials say things are turning around.

The Indiana Department of Labor says the company paid fines on six outstanding violations and agreed to an unannounced inspection.

The Fire Marshal and the fire department visited the plant a few weeks ago and found fewer safety problems.

"If you go to the site, you will see it is a much safer site," said VIM Spokesman Tom Holt.

A barrier fence has been installed. There are roads around the piles of wood chips and new fire hydrant stations will eliminate problems Baugo Township Fire department faced last year.

The biggest problem for firefighters now is the pile size.

"If they can give him his grinding permits and monitor how much he takes in, that would probably greatly decrease the fire potential," said Baugo Township Fire Chief Tim Graves.

That permit won't come until a new dust collection system is installed in August.

Holt says it will make things safer.

"If there was a fire, it would be limited to a section of the collection system or would be blown outside," he explained.

Will that reduce the risk?

"If they keep up with their cleaning, it should be a safe facility," said Graves.

While the company provides a public service, some people say it's still a public nuisance.

"I don't think anyone is going to be happy until he's gone. But obviously, that is not going to happen," said Ronnie Weiss who lives near the plant.

In August, all production should move back to the plant. Holt says the new system will process material twice as fast, which means no evening work.

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## **EDITORIAL: Thank the responders**

June 17, 2008 07:40 pm

— If you happened to drive along Anderson's eastside during the morning of June 3, you likely smelled the burning plastic, propane and ammonia associated with the Phillips Warehouse fire at 1200 E. 26th St.

Through the haze and rain that morning, the Anderson Fire Department stayed at the scene off-and-on for two days, preventing the initial late-night blaze of June 2 from burning nearby homes and extinguishing sporadic outbreaks.

For good reasons, fire and police investigators credited other departments responding to the huge blaze: Chesterfield/Union Township, Pendleton, Edgewood, Frankton, Richland Township, Adams Township, Cicero and Fishers, along with the Madison County Hazardous Materials Team, Anderson Municipal Power and Light, the American Red Cross, the Indiana State Fire Marshal, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Liberty Christian School also opened its door as a temporary shelter.

Such community spirit and sense of mission helps define Anderson.

Yet, the start of all this commotion has one source: a 13-year-old boy looking for copper to resell. He was scouring the warehouse in the dark and setting small fires to help him see.

The investigation is not over nor are the repercussions.

Three companies must relocate; one was already in the process after believing the warehouse was unsafe. A fourth company had moved out in February. The fire caused \$5 million in damage.

We can't stress the responsibility of parents and guardians in knowing where their children are after 10 p.m. on any night.

We don't suggest the arrested youth should be tried as an adult. We don't know all the mitigating factors.

We do suggest the youth be monitored into his adulthood and that counseling is mandatory for his guardians.

Until the case is resolved, our community needs to thank the teams that responded to the fire and for being ready to handle the unpredictable range of emergencies including a young teen's unfortunate and misguided actions.

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## **FEMA sets up center to help flood victims**

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

By Chris Pruett, Editor

Flood victims who are looking for a place to turn for help can get their questions answered in Terre Haute by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FEMA has set up a Recovery Center in Terre Haute at 1101 South 13th St. at the Booker T. Washington Community Center. It's open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"At the moment Terre Haute is the closest office. We may have some mobile units in a week or two (that may come to Greene County), but we don't have that scheduled yet," FEMA spokesman Greg Hughes told the Greene County Daily World.

"Terre Haute is the largest population center in this area. We opened the Recovery Center on Sunday, and on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, we had 351 visitors."

FEMA is encouraging flood victims to register for help. Hughes said victims can register one of two ways.

First, they can go to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and click on register on the home page.

"Some people may want to register in person," Hughes said.

Victims can visit the Recovery Center in Terre Haute if they prefer dealing with a FEMA representative in person.

"It's a one-stop Recovery Center with assistance from FEMA, the Indiana State Emergency Management ... the Red Cross will be there, and the U.S. Small Business Administration," Hughes explained.

"In times of a natural disaster, the SBA, despite its name, offers low-interest, long-term loans for rebuilding or repairing their homes, rental property, and businesses. They work closely with FEMA in times of disasters."

If victims decide to visit the Recovery Center, Hughes stressed that they need to bring certain items with them.

"It's a good idea to bring some sort of identification, like a driver's license, that establishes your residence. And they need to bring any insurance information they may have, because FEMA may be able to help where insurance leaves off," Hughes said.

"We want to encourage anyone who has had damage, uninsured losses, to stop by the center and see us."

For more information, go to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or call 1-800-621-3362.

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## **Beware of scam artists during the flood recovery**

Thursday, June 19, 2008

INDIANAPOLIS -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) are warning Indiana residents affected by the recent severe storms, tornadoes and flooding to be on the lookout for scam artists trying to cheat them.

A common scam occurs when a person poses as a FEMA inspector or loss verifier of damaged property. If an inspector requests a fee, that inspector is a fake, or scam artist. FEMA inspectors never request a fee for anything they do.

Another scam that may follow in the wake of a major disaster is attempted identity theft. People living in the disaster area may receive a letter, a phone call, or an e-mail from someone posing as a state or federal official. The imposter claims he is holding a disaster assistance grant or loan for the applicant and all he needs is the person's bank account number, Social Security number, or other personal information to complete the processing.

"Don't be fooled by come-ons like these," warns Mike Smith, federal coordinating officer in charge of FEMA operations in Indiana. "Neither FEMA nor the state will ever call you asking for that information -- or for a fee of any kind."

The only time FEMA collects banking information is when the applicant first registers for assistance and request funds to be direct-deposited into a bank account. But that occurs only when the applicant calls FEMA, not the other way around. Also, FEMA and state representatives carry a photo ID. Ask to see it. If still unsure, call FEMA to verify at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for those with special speech or hearing needs.

"A twist on the same scheme is for someone pretending to work for a volunteer organization to offer to help fill out an application for disaster assistance," said Joseph E. Wainscott, Jr. executive director of IDHS. "The real object is to steal the victim's banking information."

People in the process of rebuilding their homes after a disaster are also cautioned to watch out for unscrupulous contractors.

Most contractors are reputable, hard-working individuals. Unfortunately, as the recovery process unfolds, there are those who try to take advantage of storm victims. People should be on the alert for door-to-door solicitors who hand out flyers and ask for large cash deposits or advance payment in full. They should insist on seeing identification and be especially alert for phone solicitors who ask for banking information, Social Security numbers or other personal information. This information should NOT be given out.

Individuals affected by the recent disaster also should consider the following:

- \* Ask contractors for proof of insurance. Be sure the contractor has both disability and workers' compensation insurance. If a contractor is uninsured, you may be liable for accidents on your property.
- \* Ask for a written estimate, and check to make sure it includes everything you expect the contractor to do, as well as, taxes and any other fees.

\* Ask for a written contract, and never sign a blank contract. The contract should include all tasks to be performed, all associated costs, payment schedule and specify who is responsible for applying and paying for necessary permits and licenses. Also ask for a written guarantee.

\* Legitimate contractors and other service providers normally do not require more than one-third as a down payment. Don't give anyone an advance payment in cash. Pay by check, and make sure your payment schedule is clearly spelled out in your contract.

\* FEMA does not endorse individual loan companies or contractors, so be wary of any business that claims it has governmental support.

\* The only way to apply for disaster assistance from FEMA is by calling the toll-free registration number at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). For speech- or hearing-impaired applicants, the TTY number is 1-800-462-7585.

\* Be suspicious of anyone who offers to increase the amount of your disaster damage assessment.

\* Be leery of offers to help you fill out loan or grant forms and applications for a fee. If you need help filling out your Small Business Administration (SBA) loan package, call the SBA toll-free number at 1-800-659-2955. You also can visit with an SBA representative at a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC).

\* Always carefully read all documents, applications, vouchers and other papers relating to disaster assistance. If you have questions about the legality of a document claiming to be from FEMA, call the Helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), TTY 1-800-462-7585.

All residents are encouraged to get involved with the Hoosier recovery effort by helping spread the word about this warning. Tell your neighbor -- and report anything suspicious by calling the Indiana Attorney General's Hotline: 1-800-382-5516.

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## **Disaster relief underway; FEMA reps in area**

Monday, June 16, 2008

By IVY JACKSON, Times Staff Reporter

Help is on the way for flood victims in Clay County, but people need to apply for it.

"Two Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA) representatives are assigned to our area, and they will be contacting victims who have already applied for assistance," Clay County Emergency Management Director Bryan Husband told The Brazil Times Monday. "They will be going around door-to-door passing out information and fliers for flood victims. FEMA reps do not ask for personal information and do not collect any money. The only other reason a FEMA rep will have to contact a homeowner is to schedule an inspection of damages."

District 7 Task Force Administrator Melissa Buell and Husband have been traveling throughout Clay County performing the countywide damage assessment, which is still in progress. Last week, members of the Clay County Sheriff's Department traveled all the roads throughout the county to help assess the damage.

Approximately 60 percent of the 700 miles of county roads have sustained some form of damage, with 30 percent of the roads having some form of severe damage. Damage to roads varied from being totally washed out with large holes left behind, while others sustained minor damages, like having the gravel washed away or portions of the pavement washed off.

Although 10 percent of the roads remain closed because of major damage, Husband said motorists should be cautious while driving.

"Roads are still dangerous out there," he said. "The financial impact of this flood is huge."

Buell said flood victims should make sure they show all of the damage, no matter how minute, to the inspectors.

"Homeowners need to make sure that all damage is reported during their initial assessments and all of the official paperwork is filled out properly," she said. "We can't provide resources if we don't know what people need."

Husband said people should also report if they need food or assistance with replacing prescriptions.

"Our resources are limited, but we will get people the help they need," Husband said. "There have been some complaints from people about not getting any help, but, when asked, they admit to not asking for any help. We tried setting up a shelter, but no one came. We don't know where to send our assets if people don't let us know."

Officials say there are assets and resources available locally to help victims until the federal funding from FEMA arrives, but it's important that all flood victims report their damage.

The Presidential Disaster Declaration for Clay County would provide federal assistance to cover damages incurred by victims from May 30, with no end date established at this time. Even if victims have insurance coverage, Husband said they could be eligible for assistance to help with disaster-related needs.

"The most important thing a victim can do to help themselves is to go online at the FEMA website ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) or call the FEMA application number (1-800-621-3362)," Buell said.

"I hope that people realize that FEMA has guidelines that they have to follow and stay patient during the filing process. Resources are strained all around the state, there is flooded areas all around the nation," Husband said. "Their job is to help make sure that homes are returned to a livable condition. FEMA is here, and they're going to stay here until everything is done."

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Story URL: <http://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/1437443.html>

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## **FEMA provides information on how to obtain aid**

Thursday, June 19, 2008

By JASON MOON, Managing Editor

TERRE HAUTE -- Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and United States Small Business Association (SBA) provided an update of how flood victims may receive assistance Thursday.

The organizations conducted a press conference Thursday at the Booker T. Washington Community Center, 1101 S. 13th St., Terre Haute.

FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Smith said approximately 350 FEMA representatives were currently in the state "on the ground." He added more than \$21 million had already been approved to residents and others who had applied for federal assistance.

Smith said those interested in applying for federal assistance were required to call 1-800-621-FEMA or visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

"I think things are progressing very well," Smith said. "Either way works for us."

He said when residents or others contact FEMA to apply for assistance, an inspector is sent to see how much assistance may be needed. Currently, there are 160 inspectors in the Wabash Valley area assessing damage.

"Sometimes, folks are disappointed," Smith said.

He added after applying, payment may be received within 10 days, but it may also come faster.

Smith said homeowners and renters may receive grants from FEMA, but in order to receive grants, those interested must call or visit the website to register for assistance.

He said there are six disaster recovery units set up in Indiana, including the one in Terre Haute. Smith said three more would be in place by Saturday, including one in Spencer.

According to FEMA officials, close to 2,000 people have visited the units, including ones in Indianapolis, Columbus, Terre Haute, Martinsville and Franklin. In addition, 3,425 inspections have been completed and 30 counties in the state, including Clay County, have been designated for federal assistance.

Officials with the SBA also said assistance is available from the organization but those interested must fill out an application. SBA Communications Specialist Alana C. Chavez said homeowners could receive up to \$200,000 from SBA and renters could receive as much as \$40,000.

IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott Jr. said all the agencies were ready to work with residents.

"We're committed to aiding Hoosiers that have been affected by this disaster," Wainscott said.  
"The widespread result of this disaster has affected a lot of Hoosiers."

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6/18/2008 6:25:00 AM

### **News you can use after the flood - Wednesday update.**

#### **Free tetanus shots**

Bartholomew County Health Department will give free tetanus shots from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. today at the East Columbus Christian School gym, 3170 Indiana Ave. Shots are for people who have been injured and haven't had a tetanus shot in five years or people who have been in the flooded areas and haven't had a shot in 10 years. The health department had a supply of 3,000 shots and gave about 500 Tuesday.

#### **Dance benefit**

Elite Performance Dance Studio fourth annual Dance Benefit has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday at Columbus North Judson Erne Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30. Tickets \$5 in advance at Tipton Lakes Athletic Club; \$7 at the door. The event is free to victims of the recent flooding. Proceeds to benefit the Red Cross and flood relief.

#### **Red Cross fund**

Bartholomew County's Red Cross Flood Recovery Fund has an added \$1,000 thanks to a gift from the Meridian Kiwanis Club of Columbus. A reminder to those future donors who want all their gift to be dedicated solely to relief efforts here: Gifts to the national and state Red Cross will be split among numerous chapters. To give to the local recovery, gifts must be made in check directly to the local chapter of the Red Cross, with a designation in the memo line directing it to Bartholomew County victims. Also limiting fundraising efforts to the benefit of local victims is the Flood Disaster Recovery fund maintained by the Heritage Fund: the Community Foundation of Bartholomew County.

#### **Shower of toys**

First United Methodist Church, Council for Youth Development and Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center are sponsoring Shower of Toys, a new toy drive for children who lost their toys in the recent flood. New toys can be dropped off at First Methodist Church or Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Center through June 30. Information, 379-1630.

#### **Flood help**

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance will be offering free bottled water, snacks, gently used clothing and toys throughout the day Thursday outside the north entrance of Northside Middle School.

#### **Mattresses**

Eighty mattresses were available Tuesday at United Way of Bartholomew County for flood victims. Director Doug Otto said people should come to the center at 1531 13th St. for pickup. No documentation is needed. Holiday Inn Express of Greensburg donated the mattresses.

#### **Brown Co. center**

A one-stop disaster assistance center has been opened at Brown County High School, 235 S. School House Lane, Nashville. The site will be open at 9 a.m. on today and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. thereafter, closed on Sundays. Applications for FEMA assistance are made by telephone or computer and can be done as soon as a county is declared for individual assistance. It is not necessary for a storm victim to visit an office to complete an application. The applications may be found at [fema.gov/](http://fema.gov/) or the state's emergency assistance Web site at [emergency.in.gov](http://emergency.in.gov). The toll free number is 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired.

#### **VolunTEEN**

VolunTEEN will host a meeting at 5:30 p.m. today in Foundation For Youth's conference room. The meeting is for all Bartholomew County teens who want to help with flood relief. Information: 603-4561.

### **Housing**

Do you know of a company or organization helping flood victims find temporary housing? The Republic is compiling a list. Contact Senior Reporter Paul Minnis at 379-5638 or [pminnis@therepublic.com](mailto:pminnis@therepublic.com).

### **Flood supplies**

Eight local branches of the financial services firm Edward Jones are accepting personal hygiene and cleaning supplies to aid flood victims. Items needed are: soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, brooms, mops and bleach. Dropoff locations are:

- Ken Free, 1712 Central Ave.
- Jim Wimsatt, 3035 N. National Road.
- Jodi Engelstad, 713 Third St.
- Bob Lewis, 430 Fourth St.
- Andy Mann, North National Road.
- Rick Crossman, 4010 West Goeller Blvd.
- Mike Engelstad, 723 Washington St.
- James Ostermueller, 5532 25th St.

### **Gastroenterology**

Southeastern Indiana Gastroenterology, the office of Dr. Pletcher, Dr. Stouder and Nurse Practitioner Lora Fathauer is seeing patients at a temporary location. The office staff is contacting patients who have upcoming office appointments and procedures. A message may be left on the office phone number 372-8680 but medical issues cannot be dealt with until the week of June 23rd. Patients are asked to see their family doctor or go to the nearest urgent care facility in the interim.

### **Donations**

Tim Akin has opened a donation and distribution center at the site of the former 5 Points Grocery Store on McKinley Avenue. Needed most are furniture, bedding and personal care items, but any donation is welcome. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays until further notice for those wishing to donate and for flood victims. Information: 603-3165.

[\*\*Return to Flooding\*\*](#)



## 6,000 Apply For Federal Aid

Reported by: *Web Producer*

*Wednesday, Jun 18, 2008 @10:17am CST*

More Than 6,000 Apply For Federal Aid (Indianapolis) -- More than \$9 million in individual federal aid has been approved for 6500 Indiana victims of flood and storms who have filled out applications. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has opened an Indianapolis office to coordinate staff in the 30 counties that have been approved for the assistance. President Bush added Gibson and Posey counties in Southwest Indiana to the list on Tuesday. Applications for federal aid can be found online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA. Agricultural relief is also available through the USDA. That agency has issued a report estimating nine-percent of corn and soybean, and five-percent of winter wheat crops have been flooded in Indiana. (Copyright 2008 by Newsroom Solutions) RNS-06-18-08 0311CDT

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Published: June 16, 2008 6:00 a.m.

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## Floodwaters ravage Iowa campus

College buildings at risk of meeting the wrecking ball

By ALLEN G. BREED and JIM SALTER

Associated Press



Associated Press

Visitors to the riverfront district in Burlington, Iowa, survey a flooded Front Street on Sunday.





Associated Press

Russ Ogden watches over pumps at his mother's home in Davenport, Iowa, on Sunday.

## Locally

A quick moving line of strong storms moved through Allen County and the surrounding areas Sunday night, resulting in some scattered damage and power outages.

A severe thunderstorm warning was first issued in western Allen County at 6:43 p.m. Sunday, lasting until 7:45 p.m., said Lonnie Fisher, meteorologist with the Northern Indiana National Weather Service in Syracuse. The storms moved quickly through the area and wind gusts up to 62 mph were reported at Fort Wayne International Airport, he said.

Area police dispatchers received numerous reports of trees and wires down around the county, but damage from the storm was scattered.

By 9 p.m., Indiana Michigan Power reported 442 customers throughout Allen County were without power because of the storm.

IOWA CITY, Iowa – Peering across the swollen Iowa River on Sunday, University of Iowa President Sally Mason faced the unthinkable possibility that she might soon be ordering the relocation or even demolition of some buildings on the campus she took over just 11 months ago.

“It’s demoralizing,” she said, staring across the torrent from a parking structure high on the river’s east bank.

It was too early to estimate the cost or extent of the damage. But university officials said 16 buildings – including some architectural gems – had taken on as much as 8 feet of water, and seven more were at risk for flooding.

“I’m focused on what we can save,” Mason said as she toured her stricken campus. “We’ll deal with this when we get past the crisis. We’re not past the crisis yet.”

The swollen river, which bisects this city of about 60,000 residents, was topping out at 31.5 feet – a foot and a half below earlier predictions. But it still posed a lingering threat and wasn’t expected to begin receding until tonight.

Iowa City Mayor Regenia Bailey said Sunday that 500 to 600 homes were ordered to evacuate and hundreds of others were under a voluntary evacuation order through the morning. The city had no estimate of the number of homes that had actually flooded.

Bailey said homeowners will not be allowed back until the city determines it's safe.

Elsewhere, state officials girded for serious flooding threats in Burlington and southeast Iowa including Fort Madison and Keokuk. Officials said 500 National Guard troops had already been sent to Burlington, a Mississippi River town of about 27,000, and some people were being evacuated.

Gov. Chet Culver said the southeast part of the state was likely to "see major and serious flooding on every part of the southeastern border of our state from New Boston and down."

In Cedar Rapids – where flooding had forced the evacuation of about 24,000 people from their homes – residents waited hours to get their first up-close look since flooding hammered most of the city earlier this week.

Elsewhere in the Midwest, hundreds of members of the Illinois National Guard headed to communities along the burgeoning Mississippi River on Sunday for sandbagging duty while emergency management officials eyed swollen rivers across the state.

## **Hoosiers go home**

Thousands of water-weary residents across central and southern Indiana had begun returning to their homes after some of the worst flooding in the state's history, the Associated Press reported.

"We're in the recovery stage, pretty much," Pam Bright, a spokeswoman for the state's Homeland Security Department, said Sunday.

About 200 Guard members remained out of nearly 1,000 who were deployed to help combat the flooding across the southern part of the state, Bright said.

Sandbagging was completed at a levee in New Harmony, where the Wabash River crested at 22.4 feet.

Flood warnings remained in effect for many southwestern counties, and there was still high water along the lower White and Wabash rivers, said National Weather Service spokesman Phil Gray. The flood crest of the White already had flowed into the Wabash, he said Sunday.

For some, going home was not a viable option. Sarah Lyle, 29, who checked into a shelter at Martinsville High School on Saturday, said floodwaters had lifted her family's home on the outskirts of the city off its foundation and rendered it uninhabitable.

"We might be able to rebuild out there," she said, but, "it's got to go up on the hill this time."

[\*\*Return to Flooding\*\*](#)

## Local volunteers bring flood relief

### Red Cross, food bank workers doing their part in Iowa, Illinois and southern Indiana

*By Jennifer L. Boen  
of The News-Sentinel*

The Fort Wayne area, one known for its giving spirit, has now sent 20 Red Cross volunteers to flood-stricken areas in southern and central Indiana, Iowa and, by today, perhaps Illinois, said Amanda Banks, spokeswoman for the local chapter.

The nation's largest food bank system, America's Second Harvest, also has deployed Jane Avery and Bill Hoover from Community Harvest. It is especially meaningful for the two - they were married New Year's Day and both spent weeks assisting Hurricane Katrina and Rita victims in 2005.

"There's backup of sewers and a lot of wet, nasty, ruined carpet stacked up out front of homes," said Avery, who arrived in Waterloo, Iowa, late Monday. "You don't notice a terrible smell, at least not yet," she said, recalling the horrific odor relief workers that confronted them in Louisiana after the hurricanes.

Because the city is already equipped with well-run food banks it's likely she and Hoover will be headed further south.

"What is most impressive here is people seem to be self-reliant, for the most part," Avery said. "These are strong, self-sufficient type folks. They are all about keeping their heads and wits about them."

John Newlan, a Red Cross disaster volunteer from Fort Wayne, also has taken notice of Iowa's self-reliance. He is serving as the Red Cross' liaison with local government and community organizations at the Johnson County Operations Center in Iowa City where at least 1,200 homes have been destroyed by flooding. Many buildings on the University of Iowa campus were affected, forcing the temporary closure of summer school.

"They spent a significant amount of time sandbagging around campus," said Newlan, who has seen firsthand some of the flood damage in several administrative buildings, the library, the theater and the power plant.

"Normally, the Red Cross would be expecting to be sheltering thousands of people," he said. "We're sheltering only a few people. These aren't really transient cities. A lot of family and a lot of friends live in the area."

Avery said Iowa's genuinely kind and appreciative spirit is evident.

"I was wearing my America's Second Harvest shirt in a restaurant. A woman there just gave me a huge hug and said, 'Thanks so much for being here.' People at the hotel said, 'We're going to do everything we can to help you.'"

But both Newlan and Avery say it is the aftermath, the weeks and months of recovery ahead that will take their toll on residents, even more so in the Cedar Rapids area, where 10,000 to 15,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged.

He has several times in the past week driven across the main road, Interstate 380, that divides the city.

"When you drive on that highway, you're like driving across the lake," he said. "On both sides, as far as you can see, there are buildings under water. If what happened there happened in Fort Wayne, it would be like saying a flood came, hit downtown and everything between downtown and the old Southtown Mall was under water."

"A lot of that area (in Cedar Rapids) is older homes. They're all under water for 10 to 20 feet. Quite truthfully, the situation is a lot of those homes are going to have to be torn down. It would be like saying, 'we're going to bring in bulldozers and wipe out the south side of Fort Wayne.' Imagine that," Newlan said.

Many of the affected homes are far enough from the river that they likely are not covered by flood insurance.

And factories have been flooded, machinery ruined. The Quaker Oats Co., for example, was very hard hit, he said.

"If you love your Quaker Oats, you'd better go to the store and buy it now because that main industrial area went underwater."

Waterloo does not appear to be damaged that extensively, Avery said.

What is expected to occur farther downstream could compel America's Second Harvest to ask Avery and Hoover to relocate.

"This is almost like a replay of New Orleans," Newlan said, particularly of Cedar Rapids. "It is a very, very large number of homes that people can't move back into. With that much damage done, with that much damage to the industrial section, those people are going to be homeless. Unless you have thousands of empty homes in the cities, the only option you really have is to move into trailers."

A steady stream of natural disasters recently has drained the Red Cross' coffers, agency officials said this week, pleading for donations.

"There's a number people can call to inquire about assistance," Newlan said.

"It asks if you want to talk about assistance for the current disaster. You hit 1 for that. And you hit 2 if you're a disaster victim from Katrina or Wilma. If you still need services from those, you still have a hotline.

"So if you say this is long term - it certainly is."

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June 14, 2008

## Indiana's Flooding cleanup

### Victims knee-deep in trash

Cities, waste haulers hustle to clear flood-ruined belongings

*By Jeremy Herb*  
*jeremy.herb@indystar.com*

Much of the contents of Rhonda Elam's house sat in a pile on her front lawn this week: living-room furniture, beds, refrigerators, televisions -- all of it destroyed in the floods.

It was now trash, and it needed to be cleared away.

Elam's Columbus home was one of thousands in Indiana damaged by the flooding.

City and county governments throughout the state, along with private waste-management companies, have been working overtime since the waters receded to get the massive cleanup job done.

In some less-damaged areas, the work was almost complete by Friday, but in places hit the hardest, like Columbus, the job could take several months.

"There's stuff all piled out up and down the alleys -- it's everywhere," said Elam, who lives on Haw Creek Boulevard. "The smell's starting to get bad. We're cleaning up the best we can. It's just a total mess."

Jim Murray, director of the Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District, said cleanup efforts in Columbus will take longer because it will take residents time to bring out all of their debris, including damaged drywall and other construction material. Trash collection crews are making their way around the city neighborhood by neighborhood.

Bryan Burton, who is part of Columbus' cleanup efforts, said about half of the 10 or 12 flooded neighborhoods have already seen trash-hauling trucks come through and that he expected all would have some trash picked up by next week.

Health concerns from trash on the streets haven't arisen yet, Burton said, but the city is working as fast as possible to guard against bacteria, mold and mildew.

Paint, chemicals and spoiled meat are the items they are most concerned about, Burton said.

As long as residents don't ingest floodwater, the health risk is not great, said Bernadette Burden, a spokeswoman for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Columbus has recruited extra help from several city departments in its cleanup efforts, and workers are on 12-hour schedules, Burton said.

In addition to the city's fleet of 25 dump trucks and four front-end loaders, Columbus has received 10 dump trucks and two front-end loaders from the state, Burton said. Up to 40 more trucks from the state were expected to arrive to help.

Across Southern Indiana, the state has nearly 300 people and about 130 trucks assisting with flood cleanup, said John Erickson, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Most of the state's effort is centered in counties south of Indianapolis, with 200 personnel, 70 trucks and 10 front-end loaders based in Seymour.

Columbus and Seymour are covering the cost of the extra pickup for their residents, which both cities hope will be reimbursed by the federal government. But residents in counties with private garbage companies will be paying for any extra pickups.

Hoosier Disposal and Rumpke, private companies that serve many flood-affected counties, including Monroe, Johnson, Jackson and Brown, also are renting large rolling bins, the sort typically seen at construction jobs.

Ron Howard, a Hoosier Disposal sales manager, said it had already rented more than 100 bins, which cost from \$250 to \$400.

Also, Hoosier Disposal and Rumpke said they have maxed out their work force in providing assistance to cities and counties that request it.

Erickson said it was unclear whether Federal Emergency Management Agency funds would cover the costs of rented garbage bins.

Another option for cleanup is to take trash straight to the landfill.

In Bloomington, Hoosier Disposal's transfer station is open to take garbage at \$2 a bag, or \$42.37 per ton, Howard said.

[\*Return to Flooding\*](#)

June 15, 2008

## 'Preparing for the worst and hoping for the best'

*By Tim Evans*  
*tim.evans@indystar.com*

After more than a week of nonstop efforts to contain record flooding along White River, waters are receding in all but the extreme southwest corner of Indiana.

Flooding is expected to continue through at least Monday in that part of the state.

In New Harmony, emergency officials were watching closely as they waited for the swollen Wabash River to crest tonight or early Monday at 22.8 feet.

Flooding also was expected to continue through Monday in the Petersburg and Hazelton areas along White River and at East Mount Carmel, just south of the confluence of the White and Wabash.

"We're preparing for the worst and hoping for the best," Posey County Emergency Management Director Larry Robb said Saturday afternoon as about 150 National Guard troops finished stacking sandbags along a levee at New Harmony.

"Our main concern right now is a small area on the north side of town where there is a levee and our major water supply well," he said. "We're sandbagging to the 24-foot level, so we should be OK."

The muddy river inched above 22 feet Saturday and was still rising, but even if it reaches 22.8 feet, it will be well below the peaks of other major flood crests at New Harmony in 2005, 1937 and 1913, when the river topped 24 feet.

Robb said the town's historic areas are not threatened, and the town was filled with people attending an antiques show and sale Saturday.

"It's kind of ironic," he said. "At the same time we have all these Army trucks full of sandbags running up and down the roads, people are out enjoying the sunny day and shopping for antiques."

Saturday's sunny skies belied the lingering threat from the historic two-week assault by Mother Nature that prompted President Bush to designate more than two-dozen storm-ravaged counties as federal disaster areas and left at least three Hoosiers dead.

The National Weather Service is calling for a break in the weather pattern, which has dumped more than a foot of rain on many parts of Indiana already this month, but the flooding threat remains in some areas in the far-southwestern part of the state as the Wabash and White rivers push floodwaters south toward the Ohio River.

Weather forecasters said a drier weather pattern is expected over the next week, which will improve flood conditions greatly by June 21.

A few miles south of New Harmony, Duke Energy crews were working to protect the Gibson Station generating plant on the Wabash River at Princeton and to make sure workers could get to the plant if nearby Ind. 64 floods.

Duke spokeswoman Angeline Protogere said officials are more worried about workers being able to get to Gibson Station than the potential for flood damage.

"We are taking steps to make sure access is available so we can run the station," she said.

Protogere said the company's Edwardsport generating plant on White River remained closed as a precaution, and sandbagging there prevented damage to major equipment. She said the shutdown at Edwardsport, a relatively small generating plant, has not affected Duke's ability to meet power demands.

Even with a break in the wet weather, Indiana Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman Pam Bright said the state is not out of the woods yet.

Dev Niyogi, the state climatologist, said a La Niña pattern is causing more frequent and heavier rain than normal for Indiana, and it could be August before things get back to normal.

To understand how much water the recent storms have generated, Niyogi said, a large thunderstorm can dump the equivalent of the amount of water that flows over Niagara Falls in a minute's time -- or about 9 million gallons.

"If you have a series of big storms for a long period of time, just imagine, it's like Niagara Falls opening up on the city or region and there not being anywhere for the water to go," he said.

The results, he said, can be devastating.

In that vein, stormwater rushing underneath New Castle streets created huge caverns, prompting the mayor to declare an emergency and warn residents and motorists that their safety is at risk.

The largest cavern developed on Legion Drive, and Bobby York, a storm-water supervisor and assistant superintendent of the city's treatment plant, said the underground hole is 100 feet long, 6 feet wide and 8 feet deep. It was one of 16 holes found underground so far, and York thinks more could appear.

New Castle Mayor Jim Small referred to the problem as an "insidious cancer" that could affect other cities inundated by floodwaters.

"Everywhere else they've been concerned and worried about the water on the surface without worrying what's happening under the ground," the mayor said. "We might have a lot of caverns that haven't surfaced. We don't really know what the extent is. We don't know how many of these are working to the surface right now."

Elsewhere:

More than 100 residents driven from their homes by flooding and wind damage remained in Red Cross shelters in Bartholomew, Gibson, Johnson, Morgan and Vigo counties Saturday.

Hundreds of victims lined up for help at assistance centers in Morgan, Bartholomew, Owen and Vigo counties, where the Red Cross and state and federal officials were providing counseling, food stamps, replacement driver's licenses and debit cards to help victims with immediate needs.



Martinsville High School, the Morgan County Red Cross shelter, will remain open "as long as necessary," said shelter manager Barbara Burghduff. The number of people sleeping on cots in school halls has dwindled, though not by much, from 82 a week ago to 68 Saturday.

Martinsville resident Amy Thomas, 40, has been staying at the shelter with her husband, her 20-year-old son, her 10-year-old son and her 6-year-old daughter since Tuesday. The family spent a few nights at Amy's sister's house after the rains flooded the new apartment into which they were scheduled to move. On Monday, when she went to examine the belongings she had left in storage for the move, Thomas said, she could not budge the locker door.

"Everything had floated to the front," she said.

Thomas has planned to file an application for emergency assistance Saturday afternoon, but by 3:30 p.m. the Red Cross service center at Poston Road Elementary School was so full that workers were turning away people at the door.

Sarah Lyle, 29, who had arrived at the center at 7 a.m., managed to check in by mid-morning. Floodwaters had lifted her family's home, in a valley in the outskirts of Martinsville, off its foundation, she said. The house, where Lyle has lived since she was born, is now uninhabitable.

"We might be able to rebuild out there," she said, adding, "it's got to go up on the hill this time."

Call Star reporter Tim Evans at (317) 444-6204.

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June 16, 2008

## Indiana's State of Emergency

### State transitions to recovery mode

Guard troops start to pull out as rivers begin to recede in southwestern parts of state

*By Francesca Jarosz  
francesca.jarosz@indystar.com*

Floodwaters began a slow recession in much of southwest Indiana on Sunday, prompting the withdrawal of most Indiana National Guard troops and references to "recovery mode" by state officials.

About 60 of the 1,300 deployed National Guard troops remained in New Harmony and East Mount Carmel to assist local emergency officials who continued monitoring water levels Sunday, said Guard spokeswoman Lt. Col. Deedra Thombleson.

"The water levels are receding, and the rain coming doesn't look like its going to cause that much of a hazard to the levees," Thombleson said.

"(But) there could be an additional push for manpower if it was needed."

The deployment included troops from all six of the Guard's major commands, Thombleson said, and was among the largest in her 18 years with the Guard. During their eight days on storm duty, troops handled search-and-rescue operations, moved sandbags and distributed water to communities whose wells had been damaged.

Thombleson said medical professionals from the Guard were working with the Indiana Department of Health to determine whether troops need any vaccinations after exposure to floodwaters.

Meanwhile, officials from the Department of Homeland Security had begun prompting residents in counties that qualified for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance to contact FEMA immediately, according to Pam Bright, a Homeland Security spokeswoman.

The state also was encouraging residents to visit assistance centers in five cities in the affected region -- Indianapolis, Columbus, Martinsville, Terre Haute and Franklin -- to ask for help from various state agencies, such as the Department of Insurance and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The assistance centers double as places where residents can seek information about FEMA assistance, Bright said.

"We're going into recovery mode," Bright said, "and encouraging people to go to the resource centers."

The National Weather Service said rivers from Hazleton downstream into Mount Carmel crested Sunday and were beginning to recede.

While severe thunderstorms hit Central Indiana and northern areas Sunday evening, the fast-moving storms weren't expected to affect flood levels, said Dave Tucek, a weather service meteorologist in Indianapolis.

However, Sunday's storms did cause localized problems with power outages.

More than 8,000 Indianapolis Power and Light customers lost service about 7 p.m. Sunday, but by 11:30 p.m., only about 6,400 customers remained without power, said IPL spokeswoman Crystal Livers-Powers.

The outage was widespread, but was concentrated between 38th to 56th streets and Arlington to Emerson avenues.

In New Harmony, where the Wabash River crested Sunday morning at 22.4 feet, a few inches lower than anticipated, officials remained watchful even as water levels fell slightly.

"It's a very minimal fall," said Larry Robb, Posey County Emergency Management director. "Even after it goes down, we'll watch to make sure it recedes to a normal level."

While conditions were beginning to improve, residents in areas from Hutsonville south on the Wabash River and Elliston downstream on White River could still experience problems, such as closed roads, because of the flooding, said meteorologist John Kwiatkowski of the weather service.

"In some areas, there is still significant flooding," he said. "It's still bad until (the river) stops brimming."

[\*\*\*Return to Flooding\*\*\*](#)

June 16, 2008

## Rivers cresting, flood danger lingers

*Star report*

### 3:10 PM -- Rivers cresting, flood danger lingers

Cresting water levels reached the Ohio River on their way out of Indiana today, but forecasters say flooding could threaten the southwestern part of the state into next week.

Most of Indiana will see cool, dry weather with temperatures in the 70s this week, said John Hendrickson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. There is a 20 percent chance of rain on Friday.

"Otherwise it will generally be a dry week coming up, a lot quieter than it has been lately," Hendrickson said.

Heavy rain the first weekend of June triggered widespread flooding in several counties. The state saw its latest dose of wild weather Sunday, when winds as fast as 70 mph knocked down some trees in north central Indiana and snapped power lines west of Lafayette. No tornadoes touched down.

Areas along the Wabash and White rivers in the southern part of the state are still seeing some moderate to major flooding, but they should return below flood stage by early next week, said Robin Smith, a meteorologist with the weather service in Paducah, Ky.

The rest of Indiana's waterways should fall below flood stage by Friday.

The Indiana National Guard was monitoring conditions in Hazelton, East Mount Carmel and New Harmony, said John Erickson, a state Department of Homeland Security spokesman. Otherwise, he said the state has "crossed the threshold" toward recovery.

"The weather outlook is in our favor," he said. "The rainfall over the weekend didn't have any significant affect on river levels, and no significant flooding occurred."

The upcoming dry weather will give rivers and farm fields a good two or three days to drain, Smith said.

Homeland Security reports that 119 people were still staying in shelters in Bartholomew, Morgan and Vigo counties as of Monday morning.

The state Bureau of Motor Vehicles has announced that people can help flood victims by donating bottled water, nonperishable food, diapers and other items at branch offices throughout the state.

-- Associated Press

### 2:34 PM -- College hosts Johnson Co. flood center

FRANKLIN, Ind. — State officials have established a “one-stop shop” at Franklin College for people displaced or otherwise affected by last week’s flooding.

The announcement came early this afternoon at a public meeting held by federal and state officials. About 250 people attended the two-hour meeting at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Franklin.

The audience listened closely and remained calm as officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross and state government outlined ways to obtain help in repairs and recovery from flood damage.

E. Mitchell Roob, head of Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration, said several national and state agencies will staff the center in Franklin College’s Fine Arts Building, 101 Branigan Blvd.

The center will direct people on how to receive help ranging from financial assistance to food stamps and medical services.

-- By Jason Thomas

“We are determined to be here in Johnson County until we help Johnson County get back on its feet,” Roob said.

Kim Gibson, 36, said her home in Center Street in Franklin had the entire basement flooded.

“Everybody’s frustrated,” she said after the meeting. “I’ve been looted.”

She said she intended to visit the center to learn more about her options.

Gibson said she believes federal and state officials care about the plight of people like her. The problem, she added, is “not enough people with knowledge.”

According to federal officials, the most important thing for flooding victims to do is to register with FEMA. That is the first step to receiving grants, loans and other assistance.

The best way to register is by telephone at (800) 621-3362 or online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Small Business Administration officials also encouraged registration at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

Melynda Petrie, a spokeswoman for FEMA, said the agency has distributed \$5 million in housing grants and \$536,000 in other assistance such as medical services.

## **1:03 PM -- Bridge fest goes on without bridge**

The tornado-battered village of Moscow is ready for a good time.

The Rush County community will hold its 23rd annual Covered Bridge Festival June 27-29 even though a storm dropped the bridge into the Big Flatrock River on June 3.

The community plans a parade and a festival with food vendors, arts and crafts, flea market, antiques, kid games, trolley rides, Amish baked goods, helicopter rescue demonstrations and an auction.

Collections will be taken for the victims of the tornado and the rebuilding of the 122-year-old bridge.

The June 3 tornado also destroyed 13 houses and seven barns in the surrounding area as well as a 95 year-old school building. Only one Moscow resident was seriously injured and no one was killed.

For more information about the festival, go to [www.moscowfestival.in](http://www.moscowfestival.in).

## **11:44 AM -- Relief officials hold Johnson Co. meeting**

Flood victims can voice their concerns today during a town hall meeting with state legislators and federal relief officials in Franklin.

The meeting, organized by state Rep. Woody Burton, R-Greenwood, will be held at noon in Scott Hall of the Johnson County Fairgrounds, 100 Fairground St.

Local and national officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will attend the meeting to answer questions, along with state Reps. David Frizzell, R-Indianapolis, and Milo Smith, R-Columbus, as well as Johnson County officials.

U.S. Congressmen Dan Burton, Steve Buyer and Mike Pence will have representatives at the meeting.

Those in need of assistance can contact the following agencies and offices:

American Red Cross: (866) 438-4636. Locally, residents in Johnson and Morgan counties can call (317) 684-1441.

For information about debris removal, Johnson County residents can call the Johnson County Solid Waste Management District at (317) 738-2546.

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## **11:01 AM -- Daniels to tour storm damage**

Gov. Mitch Daniels will tour storm damage in south central and southwestern Indiana today.

The governor will visit Bicknell, Edwardsport and Westphalia.

Later in the afternoon, he will tour flood damage in New Harmony.

The governor met with Nashville officials earlier today to get an update on damage and recovery efforts there.

## **Earlier**

State officials are urging residents to notify the Federal Emergency Management Agency of flooding damage to their property as soon as possible.

Four more counties — Hamilton, Parke, Putnam and Randolph — were added Saturday to Indiana's disaster declaration, making 26 of the state's 92 counties eligible for federal assistance programs.

State or federal assistance centers have opened in Columbus, Franklin, Indianapolis, Martinsville and Terre Haute, but officials say those with damage should contact FEMA online or by phone even before visiting a center.

The sooner an initial report is made, the sooner an inspector can be sent to that property, said Pam Bright, a spokeswoman for the state's Homeland Security Department.

"What we're finding is they're waiting. Some people may not be able to get to an assistance center until

Wednesday, so they are going to wait until Wednesday to even apply,” she said. “We need them to apply immediately.”

Those counties previously approved for assistance are: Adams, Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo.

The disaster designation covers damage from storms that from May 30 to June 7.

Those who sustained losses in those counties can begin applying for assistance by registering online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-3362. The phone lines are available 8 a.m.-6 p.m. seven days a week.

-- Associated Press

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June 18, 2008

## Culver's to donate half of sales today to flood relief

*Submitted by Ann Gregson*

In an effort to raise much-needed funds for Red Cross tornado and flood relief efforts, central Indiana Culver's restaurants will donate 50 percent of all sales on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Central Indiana Culver's restaurants have long been a partner with the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis. John Lyter, CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis, said, "We are so grateful to our friends at Culvers who have stepped up at this critical time to give their customers the opportunity to help us provide much-needed disaster assistance to fellow Hoosiers."

Participating central Indiana Culver's locations are:

Anderson -- 6386 Scatterfield Road.

Greenfield -- 1846 N. State St.

Greenwood -- 320 State Hwy. 135

Indianapolis --

- o 5020 W. 71st St.

- o 7105 E. 96th St.

- o 4701 Kentucky Ave.

Lawrence -- 5525 N. Post Road.

Noblesville -- 557 Westfield Road.

Plainfield -- 170 S. Perry Road.

Kokomo -- 101 Pipeline Way

Crawfordsville -- 1855 S. US 231

Culver's selected the American Red Cross as its charity of choice for its coordinated charitable efforts.

Developed under the Culver's Cares program, this partnership brings together more than 370 Culver's restaurants in 16 states with their local Red Cross chapters. Culver's hosts an annual "Day of Giving" event in conjunction with Red Cross Month in March. The "Day of Giving" is just one facet of the Red



Cross/Culver's partnership. Other community efforts will directly benefit residents in central Indiana, helping them prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

All American Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of thousands of disasters across the country each year, disasters like the Indiana Tornadoes and Floods, by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to victims of disaster.

The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster, please do so at the time of your donation. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis at 441 E. 10th St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-3388 or to your local Red Cross chapter. Contributions can also be made by calling (317) 684-1441 or by visiting [www.redcrossindy.org/donate](http://www.redcrossindy.org/donate).

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June 19, 2008

## Supplies needed for flood victims

*Submitted by Nancy Canning*

St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Carmel is supporting the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in collecting buckets of supplies needed by the victims of recent floods. The Distribution Center has supplied over 1100 flood buckets to residents in Indiana and more are needed.

Area residents are invited to help this effort by providing a completed bucket or any of the supplies listed below. Donations can be brought to St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 126th St. & Gray Rd in Carmel by Sunday, July 13.

Sizes are important as all items must fit in the bucket (if you cannot find the listed size use the next smaller size).

### CONTENTS FOR FLOOD BUCKETS

5 gal. bucket with re-sealable lid.

1/2 gal. Bleach.

Liquid laundry detergent -- 50 oz.

Liquid Lysol Cleaner. Concentrate -- 12 oz.

Antibacterial dish soap -- 16 oz. to 28 oz.

Air freshener -- 9 oz.

Insect repellent (not killer) -- 6 oz. to 9 oz. spray (Off, Cutter, etc.)

5 scouring pads (not steel wool)

1 scrub brush.

18 cleaning towels (Easy Wipe, reusable).

Sponges -- 7 pack, assorted sizes

50 clothes pins (snap).

Clothesline (cotton) approx. 3/16" diameter x 100 ft.

Dust masks -- 5 pack (disposable).

Latex gloves -- package of 2 pair (Premier).

Work gloves -- (Wells Lamont, Canvas Dot) 1 pair.

Trash bags- (Glad tie, approx. 30 gallon or larger - rolled into 2 sets of 12).

Secure product lids and place all items in bucket. Put this list on the outside and seal the bucket.

For more information contact St. Mark's United Methodist Church, (317) 846-4912 or [www.stmarkscarmel.org](http://www.stmarkscarmel.org).

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June 19, 2008

## R. David Bice: Preparation is key in bad weather

These tips will help you keep safe when Mother Nature turns ugly

*R. David Bice*

I have worked my share of disasters over the years with the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency, but the straight-line wind event, which occurred the evening of June 6, was my first major incident since being appointed executive director of the EMA.

The week leading up to that Friday started out with some minor flooding affecting low-lying areas along the White River. Then it was off to the Severe Weather Emergency Operations Center to monitor numerous tornado watches, a few severe thunderstorm warnings, and finally ending with damaging straight-line winds.

Originating as a downburst from the thunderstorm, straight-line winds in excess of 80 mph damaged approximately 30 buildings, including residences and barns, in the top half of Hamilton County. These straight-line winds, having a larger damage path than a typical tornado, sustained themselves from the Boone County line to the Madison County line.

Saturday was spent coordinating damage assessment teams, consisting of EMA volunteers, who also served as weather spotters the night before. Damage reports were relayed to our office from the local fire departments, which then escorted the teams to the different locations.

A few tips I would offer residents of Hamilton County:

Purchase an NOAA All Hazards Weather Alert Radio. This will wake you when there is an alert, because the outdoor warning sirens are intended for when you are outdoors.

Get to know your neighbors. You may need to work together during a severe, long-lasting incident such as record-setting floods. Be prepared to sustain yourself for up to 72 hours.

And last but not least, during a flood event never, never drive around a roadblock onto a flooded road. The road you are traveling on could be washed out. Turn around; don't drown!

Always remember to remain vigilant when working or playing outdoors. Mother Nature may be beautiful and good-natured most days, but she can turn very ugly and mean in a matter of minutes.

[\*Return to Flooding\*](#)

June 19, 2008

## Harbour Trees hosts drive for flood victims

*Submitted by Lorryn Langton*

Weeks after record floods and tornadoes hit areas of Indiana, Hoosiers continue to work to get back on their feet and return of life as they remember. Local residents are encouraged to donate necessary items to support those in need of assistance.

Harbour Trees Golf Club in Noblesville on Morse Lake is joining forces with local agencies to serve as a collection site. The following items are requested for the drive:

Cleaning supplies, bleach, sponges, brooms, and rubber gloves.

Baby goods, diapers, food.

Paper products, plastic ware, plates, paper towels.

Personal hygiene products, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, brushes.

Sunscreen.

Harbour Trees Golf Club is a private golf club, located on Morse Lake. The collection drive is open to non-members and members, alike. Harbour Trees Golf Clubhouse is nestled in North Harbour community from Carrigan Road. Take the North Harbour Drive entrance to Harbour Trees Lane. Items may be dropped-off inside the Clubhouse lobby through July 4.

For additional details, please call (317) 877-3612 or visit [www.HarbourTrees.com](http://www.HarbourTrees.com) for more information.

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# [TheIndyChannel.com](http://TheIndyChannel.com)

FEMA Works Diligently In Indiana Flood Relief

## ***Feds Steer Flood Victims To Assistance***

POSTED: 12:24 pm EDT June 16, 2008

UPDATED: 6:28 pm EDT June 16, 2008

**MARTINSVILLE, Ind.** -- With several field offices running at full steam in flood-ravaged parts of Indiana, representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency have their hands full with residents looking for relief from record flooding that hit part of the state earlier this month.

Recovery will be a lengthy process for thousands of Hoosiers in need of assistance, [6News' Ben Morriston](#) reported.

Since Friday, hundreds of families affected by the flood have been to Poston Road Elementary School to ask for help from FEMA or the American Red Cross.

About 30 families had been to the disaster center on Monday morning to apply for grants. Inspectors typically visit those homes within three days.

"They will inspect the damage," said Jerry Grubman of FEMA. "Whatever they're eligible to receive in grant money, they'll just get a check automatically sent to them."

Grubman said aid recipients can expect to receive the checks in about two weeks after a flood victim is approved.

Flood victims are eligible for financial assistance of up to \$28,000. The Small Business Administration is also at the center to offer low-interest loans for homeowners.

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# [TheIndyChannel.com](http://TheIndyChannel.com)

**Feds Swoop Into Indiana In Storm-Relief Blitz**

## ***Hundreds Of Workers Do Inspections, Process Paperwork***

POSTED: 1:56 pm EDT June 17, 2008  
UPDATED: 2:30 pm EDT June 17, 2008

**INDIANAPOLIS --** Federal authorities are moving into Indiana in a big way to help with cleanup and recovery efforts after a historic flood inundated parts of the state last week.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency opened a large headquarters on Indianapolis' northeast side to coordinate disaster assessments and write checks to victims, [6News' Norman Cox](#) reported.

About 300 FEMA workers packed a Castleton-area office building Tuesday that was empty just a couple of days ago.

The workers are coordinating the agency's efforts in the field to evaluate damage and process paperwork so victims can get their checks.

State officials on Tuesday thanked FEMA for moving so quickly to get relief on the way to Indiana.

"We all know that it's imperative to start this process as quickly as possible," said Arvin Copeland, of Indiana Homeland Security. "There are many, many people out there who do not have homes, and it's our mission to get these people back into a place that they can quickly call home again."

Homeowners and renters are eligible for grants of up to \$28,800 to rebuild or repair homes, replace or fix appliances, buy clothing or other household items, buy vehicles and to cover temporary living quarters and moving expenses. Low-interest loans are available to cover losses above that figure.

"This morning, we've got some 111 inspectors in the field. We'll have 150 inspectors this afternoon, by the end of the day," said Michael Smith, of FEMA. "Those inspectors, on average, are doing 10 homes a day by way of inspection. They're moving very quickly."

FEMA aims to do inspections no later than three days after they are notified. Checks go out in two weeks or less, although they're currently being sent in less than a week.

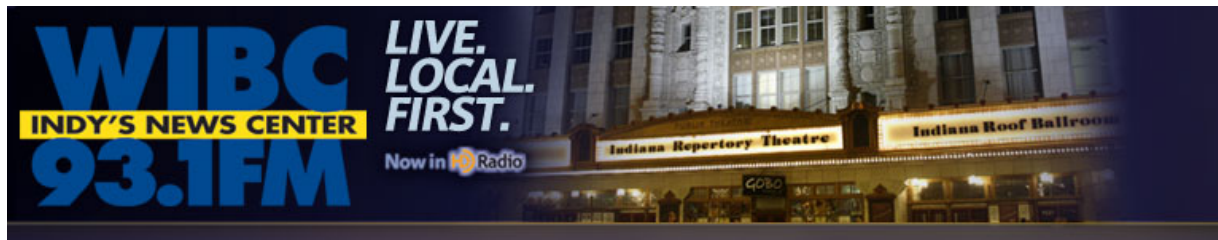
Officials said storm victims should not initiate their applications by going to a center. Instead, victims should call or go online.

Storm victims should also not give personal information unless they initiated the call to FEMA.

If someone calls a storm victim claiming to be from FEMA seeking personal information, it is likely a scam.

Storm assistance can be obtained by calling 800-621-FEMA or [online](#). Storm victims must apply by Aug. 11 to be eligible for assistance.

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## **Disasters Draining Red Cross Resources**

By Devon Scott  
6/19/2008

The American Red Cross is responding to six separate disaster areas across the US right now. Thatâ€™s creating a major drain on resources.

Carol Greeley with the Indianapolis chapter of the Red Cross says the National Disaster Relief Fund has been completely drained and funds are badly needed to keep operations going.

Greeley says they need a couple million dollars to continue the relief efforts in Indiana. If the money doesnâ€™t come in, the Red Cross would have to take out a loan to keep up disaster responses.

Greeley says people can earmark their donations for the Indiana tornadoes and floods.

Donations can be made by calling (317) 684-1441 or by going to [www.redcross-indy.org](http://www.redcross-indy.org).

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## FEMA opens new office to oversee relief efforts

Posted: June 17, 2008 12:14 PM EDT

Updated: June 17, 2008 06:48 PM EDT



FEMA and the state of Indiana opened a new office in the Castleton area to oversee the relief efforts.

homes and businesses.

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - The federal government has distributed close to \$9 million to Hoosiers affected by the floods.

Tuesday morning, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state of Indiana opened a new office to oversee the relief efforts. FEMA's headquarters will be located in the Castleton area.

More than 50 government agencies involving 300 state and federal employees will work out of the office.

With flood damage in 28 Indiana counties, FEMA plans to place 150 inspectors in the field. Their job will be to assess storm damaged

FEMA said so far 6500 people have applied for federal assistance.

"Understand it's not like your having your home inspected for resale and mortgage. It's a quick, down and dirty inspection just to enable you to access our benefits once they've taken a look at your facility," said Mike Smith of FEMA.

Mike Smith is in charge of coordinating the relief efforts. He says when homeowners apply for federal assistance, an inspector will come out to their house within three days of FEMA receiving the application. Homeowners can qualify for up to \$28,800 in grant money.

"That can be for rental assistance, repair of home, remodel of home or any number of other different expenses," said Smith.

FEMA wants to warn Hoosiers of some scams going on. The first involves people wearing FEMA shirts going door to door asking for donations. FEMA says it never ask for donations.

The second scam involves people posing as FEMA agents, calling homeowners and asking for their bank account numbers in order to deposit money. FEMA says it will never call and ask for that information.

However, when flood or tornado victims call FEMA that's when a representative will ask for personal information.

Report by [Jay Hermacinski](#), WISH. Edited by Hyacinth Williams.

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## Congressional delegates unite to push for more flood aid

Posted: June 18, 2008 10:44 PM EDT



WASHINGTON (WISH) - All nine of Indiana's Congressional delegation are standing together, asking for additional disaster funding.

Forty-seven of the 92 counties in Indiana are in some level of disaster or emergency.

Currently, there is \$5.5 billion in disaster relief funds for the U.S. But that may not be enough to carry the country through hurricane season.

Indiana Congressman Steve Buyer spent more than a week with Indiana flood victims prompting a letter asking for another \$2 billion.

"The Midwest has always been there for other regions of the country. Now we have the Midwest facing the largest disaster since Hurricane Katrina and now the rest of the country needs to step up and help the Midwest," said Buyer.

The bipartisan effort wants local governments to only pay 10 percent and flood victims to be able to withdraw retirement account money with no penalty.

Action on the emergency request may come this week.

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## Bush approves two more counties for federal assistance

Updated: June 16, 2008 04:40 PM EDT



President George W. Bush approved two more Indiana counties - Decatur and Wayne - for individual federal assistance. That brings the total number of approved Indiana counties to 28. Assistance can include [grants](#) for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.



In Indianapolis, Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) inspectors have checked 308 structures in Marion County for flood damage. To date, they estimate damage totaling \$1,777,900. Inspections have included 13 commercial structures, 247 single family structures, 44 multi-family structures, and four mobile homes. There were 21 structures with major damage. No structures have been reported destroyed. Inspections will conclude Tuesday. Anyone wishing to report flood damage after Monday should call Marion County Emergency Management at 327-3900

Cresting water levels reached the Ohio River on their way out of Indiana Monday, but forecasters say flooding could threaten the southwestern part of the state into next week.

Most of Indiana will see cool, dry weather with temperatures in the 70s this week, said John Hendrickson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. There is a 20 percent chance of rain on Friday.

"Otherwise it will generally be a dry week coming up, a lot quieter than it has been lately," Hendrickson said.

Heavy rain the first weekend of June triggered widespread flooding in several counties. The state saw its latest dose of wild weather Sunday, when winds as fast as 70 mph knocked down some trees in north central Indiana and snapped power lines west of Lafayette. No tornadoes touched down.

Hail stones as large as 1.25 inches in diameter were reported in Mishawaka in northern Indiana, and strong winds tore off part of a roof at Christ Memorial Temple on Lafayette's east side. No injuries were reported, but power was knocked out in many parts of the state.

Areas along the Wabash and White rivers in the southern part of the state are still seeing some moderate to major flooding, but they should return below flood stage by early next week, said Robin Smith, a meteorologist with the weather service in Paducah, Ky.

The rest of Indiana's waterways should fall below flood stage by Friday.

The Indiana National Guard was monitoring conditions in Hazleton, East Mount Carmel and New Harmony, said John Erickson, a state Department of Homeland Security spokesman. Otherwise, he said the state has "crossed the threshold" toward recovery.

"The weather outlook is in our favor," he said. "The rainfall over the weekend didn't have any significant affect on river levels, and no significant flooding occurred."

The upcoming dry weather will give rivers and farm fields a good two or three days to drain, Smith said.

Weather service hydrologist Al Shipe said ground can dry out fast when the sun rises as high as it does this time of year.

"A lot of the water the way it fell, it ran off, it didn't soak in," Shipe said. "You go this time of the year a week without rain, and you wonder where the water is."

Homeland Security reports that 119 people were still staying in shelters in Bartholomew, Morgan and Vigo counties as of Monday morning.

The state Bureau of Motor Vehicles has announced that people can help flood victims by donating bottled water, nonperishable food, diapers and other items at branch offices throughout the state.

[Indiana Floods](#)

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## **Flood aid forums set for Indiana farmers**

*Associated Press - June 19, 2008 4:34 PM ET*

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - State and federal officials will hold three public meetings next week to talk about programs available to farmers who have suffered flood damage.

Officials from the Indiana Department of Agriculture, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Department of Agriculture are among the agencies taking part in the forums.

They'll be at the Jennings County Public Library in North Vernon on Monday; at North Knox High School in Bicknell on Tuesday; and the Morgan County Administration Building in Martinsville on Wednesday.

All of them are scheduled to begin at 8 o'clock in the morning.

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Wednesday, June 18, 2008

## Governor tours flood damage; FEMA approves disaster aid

Wednesday, June 18, 2008



This unidentified man, who was visiting his son-in-law, took an opportunity to show Governor Daniels the damage not only to standing building, but a mud-filled RV. (Staff photos by Megan O'Bryan)

Late last week, after days of uncertainty, Brown County and 14 others joined the list of Indiana counties that have federal disaster assistance available to them.

Officials from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made the announcement on Friday, June 13.

As locals struggled to recover from the damage caused by tornadoes and intense flooding early this month, some residents expressed fears that Brown County would be left out of the federal aid loop.

FEMA representatives performed damage assessments in Brown County mid-week before the Friday announcement, however, and Brown earned its place on a list that includes more than 20 Indiana counties affected by severe storms, flooding and tornadoes.



Yards piled high with soaked, stained furniture and other possessions are a common sight along Aqua Isle. Along with damaged houses and cars, more subtle signs of the flood can be seen in leaves and mud wedged in mailboxes and debris still hanging from tree branches.

amount of the grant.

Brown County residents are now eligible for individual assistance, which, according to IDHS and FEMA, can include:

- Funding for temporary disaster housing assistance.
- Grants to help meet serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs.
- U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest loans for homeowners, renters and business owners to repair or replace real or personal property and housing repair.

The loans can be as high as \$200,000 for individual households and as high as \$1.5 million for business owners.

Grants can reach a maximum of \$28,000, and are designed to complement, rather than replace insurance, so any claims paid by private companies are taken into consideration while determining the

Residents with flood or tornado damage may apply for assistance through FEMA by registering online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.emergency.in.gov](http://www.emergency.in.gov).

People may also register over the phone seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or, for the hearing and speech impaired, at 1-800-462-7585.

Callers are encouraged to have insurance policies readily available to help streamline the interview process. Having one's current phone number, social security number, a general list of damages, general financial information, the damaged property's address and a contact number ready are also recommended.

Local Emergency Management director Mike Bruce also stressed the importance of documentation - taking photos of damage and repair processes, keeping receipts and making records of anything that one does in response to flood damage.

Such information can be a key part of the assessment process for determining the amount of federal aid one receives.

FEMA representatives will be in the county this week, going door to door to conduct on-site, individual assessments.

In order to receive an assessment, however, citizens must register so FEMA knows to come to them.

And, though it is not necessary to visit one to register, state assistance centers where staff is available to answer questions have also been opened in Columbus, Martinsville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Franklin.

In addition to federal aid, USDA Rural Development offers assistance to homeowners in rural areas, providing loans with reasonable terms and a 1% fixed interest rate.

The loans can be used to repair damages not covered by insurance or federal aid.

Applicants must own the home and the land it sits on. They must occupy the property and meet specified income limits, as well.

For more information, call (812) 334-4318, extension 4.

## **Plan office reminds locals to get permits**

Residents of Brown County are reminded that with the recent disaster, many structures in the community may have experienced structural damage.

Repairs and/or reconstruction activities to structures that are located in the floodplain and were damaged due to the disaster will require a local building permit from the Brown County Area Plan Commission as required by Brown County's local floodplain ordinance. Failure to obtain the necessary permits can result in fines up to \$500.

In addition, depending on a property's location, a permit may be required from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources prior to the start of any reconstruction activity.

For information on the permitting process, call 988-5490.

## **Disaster relief**

The Brown County Community Foundation is accepting donations for Disaster Relief.

These funds will be made immediately available to *local* organizations that are involved in the relief effort through the foundation's mini-grant process. The foundation is at 96 S. Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 191, Nashville, IN 47448.

For information call Judy at 988-4882 or e-mail [judy@browncountycommunityfoundation.org](mailto:judy@browncountycommunityfoundation.org).

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# Noblesville DAILY TIMES



*Serving Hamilton County*

Gibson and Posey included in Indiana disaster declaration

Written by Press Release

Wednesday, 18 June 2008

INDIANAPOLIS - Gibson and Posey counties were added today to Indiana's federal disaster declaration, according to officials from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Residents of these counties are now eligible to apply for federal disaster assistance. Today's announcement takes the total number of Indiana counties designated for Individual Assistance (IA) to 30.

Other counties previously designated as eligible for Individual Assistance (IA) are: Adams, Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo and Wayne counties.

This will help eligible individuals and business owners recover from the effects of severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred during a period beginning May 30 and continuing. Additional counties and types of available assistance may be added following continuing damage assessments.

Help can include;

- . Funding for temporary disaster housing assistance
- . Grants to help meet serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs
- . U. S. Small Business Administration low-interest loans for homeowners, renters and business owners to repair or replace real or personal property and housing repair

Affected individuals and business owners may apply for assistance by calling the toll-free registration number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). The registration number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice.

Those with a speech- or hearing-impairment may call TTY 1-800-462-7585. An application also can be completed online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Even if affected residents have already filled out damage report forms with the State, or their county emergency managers, or voluntary agencies they must register with FEMA at the above numbers or Web site to be eligible for federal assistance.

All residents also are encouraged to get involved with the recovery by helping spread the word about available assistance. Tell your neighbor.

Callers are advised to have the following information available to help speed up the application process:

- . Current phone number
- . Social Security number, if available
- . A general list of damage and losses you suffered
- . If insured, insurance policy number, or agent and company name
- . General financial information
- . The address of and good directions to the damaged property
- . A phone number where you can be reached during the daytime and early evening

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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# Noblesville DAILY TIMES



*Serving Hamilton County*

FEMA to open three new disaster recovery centers

Written by Press Release

Thursday, 19 June 2008

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that FEMA will open Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Brown, Owen and Knox counties on Saturday, June 21. The DRCs will be located inside existing State Disaster Assistance Centers. DRC staff will help residents who suffered damage from severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred during the period of May 30 and continuing.

New DRC location and hours of operation:

Brown County

Brown County High School

188 School House Lane

Nashville, IN 47448

(Opens noon Saturday, June 21 - will operate 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Wednesday, June 25)

Owen County

Spencer Elementary School

151 Hillside Avenue

Spencer, IN 47460

(Opens noon Saturday, June 21 - will operate 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Friday, June 27)

Knox County

Knox County Fairgrounds Office

11728 East State Road 67

Bicknell, IN 47512

(Opens noon Saturday, June 21 - will operate 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Tuesday, June 24)

Additional DRC locations for Indiana will be announced.

The DRC staff will answer questions about registration for disaster assistance and hazard mitigation, help with disaster loan applications, and provide information and contacts for other programs.

Homeowners, renters and business owners affected by the recent severe storms, tornadoes and flooding are encouraged to register for assistance by calling the telephone registration line, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Residents are encouraged to register prior to visiting a DRC. For speech- or hearing-impaired applicants, the TTY number is 1-800-462-7585. Applicants also may register on-line at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Registration lines and on-line registration are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice.

Even if affected residents have already filled out damage report forms with the State, or their county emergency managers, or voluntary agencies they must register with FEMA at the above numbers or Web site to be eligible for federal assistance.

All residents are encouraged to get involved with the recovery by helping spread the word about available assistance. Tell your neighbor.

SBA representatives at the DRC will meet individually with each applicant to provide assistance in completing their disaster loan application and to accept completed disaster loan applications. Returning the application is an essential part of the disaster recovery process even for individuals who do not qualify for a loan.

SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations for losses not fully covered by insurance. The SBA may loan up to \$200,000 to repair or replace homes and up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Up to \$1.5 million is available for uncompensated business disaster losses.

Residents and business owners can receive information about SBA disaster loans and help with the application process by calling the SBA at 1-800-659-2955 or visiting the SBA Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

FEMA is now up and running in six other FEMA/State Disaster Recovery Centers open around the state. The other locations are:

Bartholomew County  
Northside School  
1400 27th Street  
Columbus, IN 47201  
Hours: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice

Johnson County  
Franklin College  
Johnson Center for Fine Arts  
211 Branigin Blvd.  
Franklin, IN 46131  
Hours: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice

Marion County

Far Eastside Neighborhood Center  
C.A.F.E.  
8902 East 38th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46226  
Hours: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice

Morgan County  
Poston Road Elementary School  
139 East Poston Rd.  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
Hours: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice

Shelby County  
Shelbyville Senior High School  
2003 S. Miller  
Shelbyville, IN 46176  
Opening day hours: Noon to 7 p.m., thereafter 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. through Wednesday June 25.

Vigo County  
Booker T. Washington Community Center  
1103 S. 13th Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47802  
Hours: 9a.m. - 7 p.m. seven days a week until further notice

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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June 18, 2008

## BMV collecting items for victims of flooding

INDIANAPOLIS -- The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles is using its statewide license branch network as collection points for food donations for Indiana flood victims.

Hoosiers may donate non-perishable food items, bottled water, diapers and other items at BMV branches across the state. The items will be distributed by local relief agencies to victims of the severe weather events in early June.

Cash contributions can't be made at license branches, but should be made directly to the Red Cross, Salvation Army or other relief funds.

Immediate help is needed and relief agencies need to restock their shelves for distribution over the long-term recovery process.

Waste Management of Indiana provided collection boxes in each BMV branch and items can be contributed at each branch during normal business hours.

The BMV is working with the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and other public and private sector organizations to help Hoosier flood and tornado victims.

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June 18, 2008

## Government aid response mirrors society

As economic hardship as a consequence of flooding goes, it seems apparent that Indiana suffered far less than some other Midwest states, notably Iowa, and that within Indiana east central portions of the state were considerably less hammered by flood waters than, say, central and even southern areas of the state.

But nature does not respect the jurisdictional lines established by man. So even within Wayne County, where Richmond had heavy rains, portions of western Wayne County endured flooding rains, and those flash floods drove many residents from their homes and created desperate rescue operations for others.

In recent days this newspaper was praising those rescuers who manned boats and risked death or serious injury to help others get out.

This week we are appreciative of the federal, state and local officials, notably the Federal Emergency Management Agency assisted by Wayne County Emergency Management officials who conducted the inspections and assessed the damage in making the determination that Wayne would become the 28th Indiana county approved for federal aid. The action provides an important financial and morale boost here.

A federal government that can assist the owners of \$1 million summer beach homes swept away by hurricanes can and should help those eking out an existence even before flood waters lift their mobile homes from their foundations.

That our government answers that call for help demonstrates the kind of measured, compassionate response in emergency need that mirrors the American people's goodness.

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June 18, 2008

## 3 from Wayne County apply for federal flood assistance

*PALLADIUM-ITEM*

More than 7,500 Hoosiers have applied for assistance in the nine days since President Bush declared 28 Indiana counties as major disaster areas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said today.

More than 1,000 Hoosiers in Bartholomew and Morgan counties, the hardest-hit areas from severe storms and flooding, have applied for aid.

Three have applied in Wayne County.

Federal and state officials urge homeowners, renters and businesses affected by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding to call (800) 621-3362.

More than \$11 million in disaster assistance grants and loans have been issued.

For those with hearing or visual impairments call (800) 462-7585.

Registration forms are also available online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

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June 20, 2008

## Centerville woman believes dream about flood was premonition

This letter is in regard to the flooding in Indiana.

I had a dream! I dreamed I was in a flood. I was in water up to my shoulders and I looked up and saw my mobile home floating like a ship on an ocean.

When I woke up I asked myself, "Why did I dream I was in a flood?" I do not live near a great body of water. There are a few creeks around, but none that could flood where I live.

I dreamed this last month and forgot about the dream until I heard about the flooding in central Indiana.

Now I believe that my dream was a premonition or a warning. I will have to start paying more attention to my dreams. I had no one to interpret my dream until it happened.

Linda Creech,

Centerville, Ind.

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# THE SHELBYVILLE NEWS

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SHELBYVILLE, INDIANA      A NEWSPAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE      SHELBYNEWS.COM

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

## Disaster center opens Thurs.

Bettina Puckett  
Staff Writer

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Victims of the tornado and flood disasters in Shelby County will be able to get help and vital information from FEMA and other government agencies when a Disaster Recovery Center opens Thursday morning at Shelbyville High School.

Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be at the Disaster Recovery Center at noon on Thursday. Numerous other agencies, including the state Family and Social Services Administration, which handles food stamps, will start serving disaster victims at 8 a.m. The center will be open each day until 7 p.m.

Disaster victims must first register with FEMA either by telephone or online before showing up at the DRC, said Mike Schantz, Shelby County's emergency management coordinator. FEMA's telephone number is (800) 621-FEMA (3362), and the agency's Web address is [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

FEMA's registration call centers have expanded operations to 24 hours per day, seven days a week, said the agency's web site.

Agencies that will be on hand to provide assistance include the American Red Cross, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, The Salvation Army, Work Force Indiana Employment and Training (unemployment services), agricultural services and Human Services Inc.

Representatives from FEMA and the state Family & Social Services Administration have told Schantz they will operate the DRC for up to seven days.

Disaster victims that come to the center will need to enter the parking lot on the west side off of McKay Road, said Kim Owens, a spokeswoman for Shelbyville Central Schools. "The southwest wing of the school will house FEMA and FSSA," Owens said. "Please enter at the southwest wing."

"Virtually anything that disaster victims need will be at the Disaster Recovery Center," Schantz said.

Meanwhile, 4,500 informational flyers about disaster recovery were mailed this week to the southernmost six townships in Shelby County, said Amy Dillon, executive director of the Shelby County Plan Commission. The flyers contain information about FEMA and how to apply for assistance from the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred in Shelby County starting May 30.

The flyers were not mailed countywide because of limited resources, but residents who had storm damage in other parts of the county also are encouraged to report that to Dillon's office at (317) 392-6338 and to apply to FEMA.

"We still need for people to turn in their damage assessments," Dillon said. "People in northern Shelby

County also need to call us. We need your information, too."

County officials have estimated they have recorded only about 50 to 60 percent of the actual damage from the June tornado, storms and floods.

"All of Shelby County was declared a federal disaster area," Dillon said. "Although some other counties in Indiana had more damage than we had, we still have a number of people in Shelby County who have sustained a significant amount of damage and heartache."

It may be easy to see a water mark where the floodwater reached a certain level in a home in Willow Park, for example, but flood damage in basements is not always evident when government officials do "windshield" tours of the areas affected by the storms, she said. That's why Dillon and other officials keep emphasizing that residents should report their damage - despite how small they may think it is compared to their neighbors.

"Our damage in Shelby County is significant to us and important to us," Dillon said.

As the recovery continues, more disaster victims have been coming to the Shelby County Health Department to get tetanus shots. People who have not had a tetanus shot in five years - and have been exposed to the dirty floodwaters - need to get them, said Cecilia Ortiz, public health nurse at the county's health department.

Ortiz said the health department has given 101 tetanus shots since the disasters struck.

The Shelby County Health Department, 1600 E. State Road 44, is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 11: 30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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Thursday, June 19, 2008

## FEMA rep urges victims to 'get into the system'

Bettina Puckett  
Staff Writer

Thursday, June 19, 2008

A FEMA representative told about 100 Flat Rock disaster victims Wednesday night that the federal agency is not going to make them whole after a June 7 flood destroyed many of their homes, but it is FEMA's job to make sure they are "safe, secure and sanitary."

"My job is to get out in the field and meet you," said Dean Brouillette, a volunteer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "But FEMA can't do anything for you unless you get into the system."

Brouillette asked for a show of hands to indicate how many residents had registered through the toll-free FEMA number, which is (800) 621-FEMA (3362). About half of the residents held up their hands. FEMA call centers are now open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"The whole process starts when you call that number," Brouillette said at the 7 p.m. meeting held at the Flat Rock Volunteer Fire Department.

Brouillette explained that the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and other organizations typically enter a disaster area quickly to help fill the immediate basic needs of victims, including food and shelter. "I don't come in until the water is going down," he said.

FEMA wants people who have insurance to use it, he said. However, only four people raised their hands when Brouillette asked how many people have flood insurance. "Most people think it won't happen to them," he said.

Brouillette warned that FEMA will not be passing out large checks to victims. "The money you can get from FEMA is minuscule compared to what you'll need to rebuild your house," he said.

However, some residents who lost their homes may qualify for loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The SBA can lend people up to \$200,000 to rebuild and \$40,000 for destroyed personal property - "if you can repay it," he said.

The SBA is now offering loans in the 3 percent interest range, which is better than most banks are offering, he said.

FEMA may meet other needs as well. For instance, if a family lost its only vehicle in the flood - and that is the family's only mode of transportation - FEMA may replace it, Brouillette said.

The federal agency also has funds for medical, dental and funeral expenses, if they are storm-related, he said.

"But nothing will happen until you call the 1-800 phone number," Brouillette said.

When victims call the number, they are put in touch with a FEMA inspector who will arrive at their house within a week to 10 days. One woman in the audience said a female FEMA inspector was in the Flat Rock area on Wednesday. "She just left my house," she said.

If a victim receives a letter from FEMA that is marked "denied," Brouillette said people should not get mad, grumble and throw it away. "You have an appeal process," he said.

A number of officials were at the meeting, including Eugene Johnson and Cici Hendrix of the town of Fishers, which has adopted flood-stricken southern Shelby County. Johnson and Hendrix have been going around Flat Rock and doing damage assessments to see if people need furniture, appliances, toys and other items that will be donated.

Twelve volunteers from Fishers were in Flat Rock on Saturday. "We appreciate the hospitality you showed during this trying time," Johnson said. "I think that speaks volumes about the character of your community."

Johnson gave out his phone number, (317) 595-3345, so that disaster victims can reach him. "We look forward to working with you to get you back on your feet," said Johnson, who said the recovery will involve a long-term partnership between the two communities.

Tony Newton, South District county commissioner, said four roads in Shelby County remain closed. "We hope to get the road between Mount Auburn and Marietta opened up in the next week," said Newton, who has been managing the rotation of about 50 trash bins in which victims have dumped their flood debris.

Jim Lisher, of the Shelby County Public Defenders Association, told the disaster victims they can apply for free legal help by calling (317) 421-8030.

Ed Van Schaick of the American Red Cross said his agency is currently dealing with six major disasters in the nation at once.

"We are stretched thin, so I hope you'll have patience with us," Van Schaick said. "I've seen some terrible things that have happened to you, and my heart goes out to you. Remember that recovery is not an event; it's a process."

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## **4 more counties added to Indiana disaster declaration**

*Associated Press - June 14, 2008 6:34 PM ET*

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Four more Indiana counties have been added to the state's disaster declaration for recent flooding and tornado damage.

The governor's office says President Bush approved the addition of Hamilton, Parke, Putnam and Randolph counties. That makes 26 Indiana counties now eligible for federal assistance to homeowners, renters and businesses.

State officials are urging residents to notify the Federal Emergency Management Agency of damage to their property as soon as possible.

Pam Bright of the state's Homeland Security Department says the sooner an initial report is made, the sooner an inspector can be sent to that property.

Those who sustained losses can begin applying for assistance by registering online at <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-3362. The phone lines are available 8 a.m.-6 p.m. seven days a week.

Those counties previously approved for assistance are: Adams, Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo.

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## Indiana looks to dry out as flooding moves south

*Associated Press - June 16, 2008 3:24 PM ET*

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Cresting water has reached the Ohio River on the way out of Indiana, but forecasters say flooding could threaten the southwestern part of the state until next week.

Areas along the Wabash and White rivers in the southern part of the state are still seeing some moderate to major flooding, but meteorologist Robin Smith says they should return below flood stage by early next week.

Meanwhile, most of the state will see cool, dry weather with temperatures in the 70s this week. There is a 20% chance of rain on Friday.

The Indiana National Guard is still monitoring conditions in Hazelton, East Mount Carmel and New Harmony. But Homeland Security spokesman John Erickson says the state has otherwise "crossed the threshold" toward recovery.

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# Overwhelmed Red Cross asks for help

[by Dustin Grove \(grove@wsbt.com\)](mailto:grove@wsbt.com)

Because of excess flooding and tornadoes this year, the Red Cross headquarters is asking for help to keep their services going. (WSBT file photo)

Story Created: Jun 18, 2008 at 4:24 PM EDT

Story Updated: Jun 22, 2008 at 10:54 PM EDT

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — The Red Cross said it has been hit hard by natural disasters in the last year including tornadoes and flooding in the area.

## Multimedia

- [Watch The Video](#)

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- [Help the Red Cross](#)
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- [Clean-up buckets requested for Midwest flood recovery](#)
- [Experts: Be wary of produce from flooded areas](#)
- [Flood victims worry: What's in the water?](#)
- [Storms leave costly damage behind](#)

People are optimistic at the St. Joseph County Red Cross headquarters.

They anticipate at least breaking even this year. In the last year, the Red Cross has been busy and they are now asking for your help.

"We're doing our best to keep our heads above water," said Director John Pinter.

Since the Civil War days, the Red Cross has helped provide food, shelter, and support for anyone hit by disaster, natural or man-made.

Earlier this year, federal disaster relief dollars went to help people in northern Indiana faced with flooding.

"Our goal is to help fundraise to get that back up to the level it was, but it's been hit on and hit on and hit on a number of times," said Pinter.



It has been hit on for record-breaking floods and devastating tornadoes across the Midwest. And even local chapters are concerned.

Since 2006, the St. Joseph County chapter has helped victims from nearly 150 fires.

Last year, local finances ran into the red.

But Pinter said this year, he hopes to break even.

"In order for us to be there when an emergency comes, we need people's support throughout the whole year," Pinter said.

Berrien County's Red Cross has also been running in the red. Their cash reserves are gone and the director said, unless things change, they may have to close their doors within a year.

In 2005 after Hurricane Katrina, the Red Cross had to take out loans for the first time in its history to provide aid.

To continue helping out in flood zones across the Midwest, they are taking out loans again.

They're optimistic they will be able to raise enough money to pay those loans back.

For information on how you can help the Red Cross, click on the link in the Related Content box.

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## • **FEMA Gives Flood Update**



Reported by: *Katie Shane*

*Thursday, Jun 19, 2008 @05:16pm EST*

It's been nearly two weeks since the flooding destroyed numerous homes and businesses across the Wabash Valley.

Since that time local, state and federal government have been working around the clock to help residents in the 30 Indiana counties that have been declared disaster areas.

Thursday afternoon Federal Emergency Management Agency, Indiana Homeland Security and local representatives gathered to recap the progress that has been made since the flooding and look to the future.

FEMA representatives say home inspections have nearly wrapped and more than \$21 million has been given out more than \$3 million going to Vigo County residents.

"As of this moment there is \$21 million out on the street to Indiana residents as a result of some 8,753 registrant either by phone or by the internet and this morning just as a fact we had 32 percent coming from the internet applications so either way works for us," said Mike Smith FEMA Coordinating Officer.

Once FEMA forms are filled out either in person, over the phone or online it usually takes 10 days to receive a payment.

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**TribStar.com**



## FEMA going strong in Wabash Valley

**By Arthur E. Foulkes**

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE June 17, 2008 12:07 am

— More than 100 people sought help Monday at the Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster recovery center in Terre Haute, a FEMA official said.

In addition to those helped Monday, the recovery center, at 1101 S. 13th Street in the Booker T. Washington Park Community Center, received 66 visitors Sunday, the official said.

People with uninsured losses from the recent flooding are encouraged to pre-register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), said Greg Hughes, a FEMA spokesman in Terre Haute.

Registering on the telephone or online speeds up the process, Hughes said.

However, “Some people just like that person-to-person contact,” he said.

Anyone visiting the disaster recovery center should bring identification that shows a home address, Hughes said. In some cases, a utility bill will do, he said.

A variety of assistance is available at the Terre Haute recovery center, Hughes said. Some aid is available through state emergency management officials. Other aid is available through the Red Cross and some help is available through the U.S. Small Business Administration.

“They have an important role,” Hughes said, referring to the SBA.

The SBA provides long-term, low-interest loans for renters, home owners and businesses, Hughes said. The interest rate on the loans is around 2.9 percent, he said. The loans also may cover loss of possessions, he said.

It was unclear how long FEMA will have a disaster recovery center in Terre Haute, Hughes said, adding he expects it will be here for weeks. “It depends upon the need,” he said.

The Terre Haute-based disaster recovery center is open to anyone from Indiana, but is designed to handle visitors from Vigo and surrounding counties, including Owen, Knox and Putnam counties. Disaster recovery centers are located in other cities in Indiana, he said.

In addition to helping individuals with flood losses, FEMA also works with government agencies to reimburse them for disaster-related expenses, Hughes said. FEMA reimburses taxpayer-funded government agencies for at least 75 percent of storm-related losses, he said.

*Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or [arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com](mailto:arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com).*

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**TribStar.com**



## Indiana State trying to help staff, students affected by flood

**By DeAntae Prince**

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE June 18, 2008 10:51 pm

— Though the campus of Indiana State University wasn't directly affected by the recent flooding, many of the students and staff that live off-campus were.

About 50 students and many ISU staff members were affected by the floodwaters that submerged many areas in Vigo County. The Dean of Students' office came up with a list of donation items from the flood victims. They asked that staff and students at the university help provide for those who have lost so much.

They also had clothing donated to Helping Hands, a thrift store in West Terre Haute that is giving free clothing to people in the community.

The university received an overwhelming response, said Lisa McDaniel, assistant dean. Between 4 and 6 p.m. Friday, they will provide the students and staff members with personal hygiene items and additional materials they collected.

McDaniel teamed up with Carmen Taylor Tillery, ISU dean, and Al Perone, ISU associate dean, to help students who lost personal belongings. About half the students who were without came from International Village, Perone said.

Many students who attend ISU don't have any family in the Terre Haute community. Perone said that was a group they were really interested in assisting.

"The students that are away from home that don't have the family around to help them get back on their feet," Perone said. "Those are people that are part of our university family. It's very important that we help, so they can stay in school."

Perone and the office put out information on their campus portal and sent out mass e-mails, informing students on where to get assistance, temporary housing and how to file Federal Emergency Management Agency forms.

Perone and Tillery said McDaniel has taken the effort on wholeheartedly.

"She's so passionate about it," Tillery said. "She's been calling around, she's had her neighbors donate stuff. She coming today with a truck with hygiene items from on her own time after work so they'll be available for her students."

McDaniel even gave a student a couch out of the goodness of her heart — a goodness so many people have found in these trying times. She said she couldn't imagine her family going through the situation that ISU students and Terre Haute residents were forced to deal with. "I have a daughter myself," McDaniel said. "I can only imagine what that would put me through if I was in that situation, living paycheck to paycheck and not having extra money to go out and buy

things.”

McDaniel and her daughter went out to buy things for flood victims, and she said her daughter has been “touched by it.”

McDaniel said the people she saw on the streets compelled her to help.

“I saw some of the things that were laying out on the road and I just wanted to help,” McDaniel said in a soft, concerned voice. “People were putting things in trucks, and hauling their things away. You could just see them, like they couldn’t believe this happened.”

Everyone has different needs, Perone said. He and his coworkers have been diligently working to fill those needs. They’ve set students up with housing, laptops and furniture to help them finish the summer sessions.

Four student leaders on the campus had materials in storage that were all lost in the flood. They no longer have furniture, winter clothes or electronics. There is still confusion on whether those things would be covered by insurance since it didn’t happen in their home, Perone said.

“It’s pretty humbling,” Perone said of the flood. “It makes you appreciate all the things that you have in life. The important thing is you have your life, and you have your family.”

Donations can be taken to the Dean of Students Office at the Hulman Memorial Student Union, Room 813 by 3 p.m. Friday.

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**TribStar.com**



## FEMA: Money going out to flood victims

**By Brian Boyce**  
The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE June 19, 2008 11:56 pm

— Less than two weeks after floodwaters pushed thousands of Wabash Valley residents from their homes, federal money is now being disbursed.

“The first thing they have to do to access FEMA help is to ask,” said Mike Smith, the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s federal coordinating officer, Thursday afternoon at a media conference outside the Booker T. Washington Community Center.

According to information provided by Smith, about \$19.86 million in disaster recovery grants have been approved for Indiana disaster victims, and 8,460 people in 30 designated Hoosier counties have called to apply for help.

The federal agency has about 350 workers on-site in Indiana, and Smith said those needing help should go to relief centers, such as the community center at College Avenue and 13th Street. Smith described the local Emergency Management Agency’s efforts as superb, and said despite the disastrous effects of June 7th’s flooding, it would have been much worse without its hard work.

Joseph Wainscott, executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, said that weekend’s flooding was “probably one of the most widespread disasters in recent state history,” but also noted that the efforts of local community agencies and emergency management officials mitigated losses tremendously.

Smith said an array of assistance programs are available and encouraged individuals either to apply online, or visit a relief center to determine what avenues are best to take.

Up to \$28,800 in grant money is available through the Individuals and Households Program, and can be used toward temporary housing, repairs or construction costs, he said.

Alana Chavez of the Small Business Administration said that in addition to the grant funding, low-interest loans are available to homeowners, renters and businesses, with caps ranging from \$200,000 to \$1.5 million depending upon the situation. Interest rates range from as low as 2.68 percent to 4 percent depending on the situation, residential or commercial business, she said.

“We’d just like to encourage people to send in their applications,” she said, noting as others did that the process can be done online or in person, but that applicants need to have as much of their documentation as possible on hand.

Smith said in some cases, money can be distributed to the victims in as little as 10 days, and depending on the scenario it could even be faster.

Greg Hughes, a public information officer for FEMA, reminded applicants to reapply if they are

initially denied, and more importantly, to bring the paperwork down to the community center and re-work it with the assistance of the agency volunteers. Errors or incomplete information can cause problems in the process, he said.

“That letter of being denied is not the end,” he said.

Vigo County Commissioner Judy Anderson said she’s been very impressed and thankful at the community response to the flooding, as well as that of the federal and state governments.

“I realize there are 30 other counties who are as devastated as we are,” she said.

*Brian M. Boyce can be reached at (812) 231-4253 or [brian.boyce@tribstar.com](mailto:brian.boyce@tribstar.com).*

- To apply for FEMA aid, call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Applications can also be completed online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Counties eligible for assistance include: Adams, Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo and Wayne.

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**TribStar.com**



## Wabash Valley contractors can't keep up with demand

**By Arthur Foulkes**

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE June 20, 2008 12:01 am

— The recent flooding has been good and bad news for area builders. While widespread water damage has caused a huge surge in demand for contractor services, there may not be enough manpower to get all the work done anytime soon.

“I think everybody in town is going to have more than they can handle,” said Kevin Maher, owner of Roger and Kevin Maher Contracting in Terre Haute. “We’re doing a lot of measuring and having a hard time getting back” to people, he said. “You can only handle so much.”

With all the extra demand, many area contractors expect the need to hire extra help; however, it may be difficult to find workers with the proper training. Many also expect the cost of building materials to rise in the wake of the flood.

As busy as contractors are now, Tom Graham, owner of Graham Drywall and Painting of Terre Haute, expects things to get even busier when flood victims start receiving federal disaster relief checks. “I look for calls to really pick up,” he said.

“It’s a little overwhelming right now,” said Rick Cadwell, owner of Cadwell Farms Inc., which specializes in outdoor repairs, such as docks and retaining walls. Cadwell is based on the west side of Indianapolis, but has received several calls from Vigo County residents since the June 7 flood.

“We’ve gotten lots of calls,” said Cadwell, who has done work in Terre Haute before. “It almost sounds like I could set up camp there for a while.”

“Contractors are definitely swamped,” said Matt Lee, owner of Southern Indiana Home Repair in Terre Haute. “I’ve been on a lot of estimates where [homeowners] have said nobody will even call them back ... We’re definitely busy.”

With so much demand for home repair services, state and local officials are warning homeowners to watch out for scam artists.

“They definitely want to be careful,” said Ted Collins, Vigo County Building Inspector. “People are going to be vulnerable because they want things done” quickly, he said.

The Indiana Secretary of State’s office issued a warning for flood victims earlier this month.

Among other things, the warning urged homeowners to get bids in writing, talk to friends and family about contractors they recommend and remember that Indiana law requires contracts for work exceeding \$150.

If building materials prices rise and skilled labor supplies are low, homeowners can expect to pay more for repairs and, because of the size of the disaster, wait longer for it to happen.



“There’s just so much damage everywhere you look,” Maher said. Tearing out damaged building materials, such as drywall, can be done relatively quickly, he said. But rebuilding gutted homes will take more time and workers with more training, he said.

“That’s what the whole Terre Haute area is up against,” Maher said. “I think [rebuilding] is going to be a slow process.”

*Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or [arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com](mailto:arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com).*

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## TRIBUNE-STAR EDITORIAL: And another thing...

June 18, 2008 07:42 pm

### FEMA repairing its image

Let's face it. When most of us see the capital letters "FEMA", positive images do not spring to mind. And with good reason. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's slow and initially inadequate response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and other portions of the Gulf Coast three years ago created a negative brand image.

But that lingering image may be changing. Reports coming in locally, statewide and from around the flood-ravaged Midwest indicate FEMA is making a comeback. With widespread devastation and a great demand for its services, FEMA has responded well.

It is much too soon to assess FEMA's overall performance in managing this current crisis, but confidence is rising. The federal response thus far has been solid. And that is a great comfort to the many people and communities in the Wabash Valley and elsewhere trying to recover.

### Voices of Vigo County in D.C.

Bouquets are in order for the 45 students from Vigo County high schools and middle schools who performed Sunday with the VCSC Select Choir as part of Indiana Day at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Vigo County can be proud knowing it was represented with class and dignity by a large group of its finest young people at such a prestigious event.

We also salute the adult volunteers and choral directors who helped make the choir's trip possible.

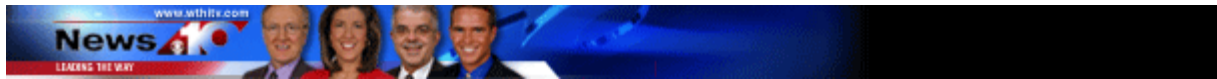
### Idiocy in action

It's never wise to dwell too much or for too long on some of the really dumb things people do. But the painting of a Swastika, a symbol of Nazism, on the steps of a historic local church merits a demerit or two for the perpetrator(s).

Meanwhile, we applaud the local NAACP and church members for stepping up to condemn the vandalism.

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## Water-weary residents returning home after flood

*Associated Press - June 15, 2008 8:54 PM ET*

ELNORA, Ind. (AP) - Thousands of evacuated residents across central and southern Indiana have begun returning to their homes following some of the worst flooding in the state's history.

Indiana Homeland Security Department spokeswoman Pam Bright says "We're in the recovery stage, pretty much."

Most of tiny Elnora on the White River in southwest Indiana was back home by the weekend as high water receded. Only a few houses were still underwater yesterday.

And sandbagging was completed at a levee in New Harmony, where the Wabash River crested at 22.4 feet today.

More storms swept across the state tonight, downing trees and power lines and cutting electricity to thousands in the Tippecanoe County, South Bend, Fort Wayne and Muncie areas. The heaviest rain was expected north of Indianapolis.

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## Help available for Indiana flood victims

*Associated Press - June 16, 2008 7:04 PM ET*

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - The state says people can help flood victims by donating bottled water, nonperishable food, diapers and other items at Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch offices throughout Indiana.

Also today, President Bush approved federal assistance for Decatur and Wayne counties, bringing the total number of counties approved to 28. The assistance can include grants and low-cost loans for home repairs.

Also, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has given the the state approval to issue emergency food stamps to residents in 14 more counties hit hard by flooding.

The latest are Adams, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Greene, Henry, Jackson, Jennings, Knox, Owen, Rush, Shelby and Sullivan counties.

Marion, Johnson, Hancock, Bartholomew, Morgan, Monroe, Vigo and Vermillion counties received approval for the food stamps last week.

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## Warned too late?

Posted: June 19, 2008 06:18 AM EDT

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (WTHI) - The levee break in Lawrence County, Illinois last week left dozens homeless.

Many folks say they only had a few minutes' notice before they had to leave their homes.

Now many people are angry at the county's Emergency Management Agency, saying they should have been given more notice.

Last night, dozens of flood victims talked with the county board, asking for answers.

Board President, Charles Gillespie, didn't say anyone was at fault, just that the county needs to rebuild.

Many leaving the meeting told News 10 they felt they weren't treated fairly, and thought Gillespie should have given them answers.

Meanwhile, the Lawrence County Board is pushing for the county to be declared a federal disaster area, and hopes to have FEMA survey the area on Sunday.

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